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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7773 MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1990/JAMADUL THANI 25, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS



An Azerbaijani woman in despair tears her hair out in grief after the Armenian militants of the Khanlar region kidnapped her children 40 kms from Gyandzha. (Reuter wirephoto)

Snipers pin down army

Crowds defy Moscow-imposed emergency in Baku

MOSCOW, Jan 21, (Reuter): Nationalist snipers pinned down Soviet troops in the Azerbaijani capital Baku today as vast crowds massed on the streets, defying a Moscow-imposed state of emergency.

A spokesman at the Azerbaijani Parliament told Reuters by telephone that the emergency session would discuss the situation in Azerbaijan following the imposition of the state of emergency.

NEWSWATCH

OIC condemns

JEDDAH, Jan 21 (AP): The 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference today condemned Tunisian academic Prof. Youssef Seddik for writing a comic book version of the Holy Quran in France.

Israeli killed

TYRE, Jan 21, (AP): An Israeli army colonel was killed today in a gun battle with commandos who occupied a house in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources reported.

New Seoul party

SEOUL, Jan 21, (AP): President Roh Tae-woo has agreed to dissolve his governing party to create a new Conservative Party in alliance with two moderate opposition groups, political officials said today.

Three arrested

TAIPEI, Jan 21, (Reuter): Taiwan police have arrested two Arab women and a boy on charges of stealing jewellery worth about \$40,000, a police officer said today.

Alcohol ban

AMMAN, Jan 21 (AP): Prime Minister Mudar Badran yesterday banned liquor at official gatherings and said the government plans to stop serving liquor aboard Royal Jordanian Airline flights pending a study.

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate southeasterly wind.
State of sea: Slight to moderate
High water: 10.00 am, 7.00 pm
Low water: 3.00 am, 1.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.42 am
Sunset: 5.17 pm
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Ahmad: 16°C 61°F
Falkland: 16°C 61°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 4°C 39°F
Ahmad: 6°C 43°F
Falkland: 6°C 43°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Ahmad: 16°C 61°F
Falkland: 16°C 61°F
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 37 per cent
Ahmad: 35 per cent
Falkland: 36 per cent

30 die as soldiers fire on Kashmiris

Situation becoming tense and dangerous

JAMMU, India, Jan 21, (Agencies): Troops killed at least 30 pro-Pakistan Muslim protesters in overnight battles with mobs in the Kashmir city of Srinagar.

Nomani, speaking by telephone from Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, said the fighting tapered off late this afternoon as heavy rains lashed the city.

Plan to prop up economy slammed

KUWAIT, Jan 21, (AP): A prominent Kuwaiti economist today criticised a government blueprint for restructuring the stagnant economy, and predicted a programme for setting bad debts would cost up to \$3.5 billion of public money.

Kashmir may explode

Out of control

ISLAMABAD, Jan 21, (Reuter): Growing violence in Indian-controlled Kashmir could easily spin out of control and embroil India and Pakistan in armed confrontation, the president of Pakistan's Azad Kashmir said today.

Sardar Abdul Quyyum Khan said there was a real danger that Kashmiris in the Pakistani army guarding the line of control dividing the disputed mountain region could desert with their arms to join Muslim gunmen.

India has reacted to a wave of violence in its Jammu and Kashmir state by imposing direct rule through a new governor sent to quell a virtual uprising by Muslim militants.

"I can see that this could lead to a much greater catastrophe than either Pakistan or India can imagine," said Quyyum, constitutional head of semi-autonomous Azad (free) Kashmir.

"It is almost out of control, although if we try to solve it peacefully it can be brought under control."

Speaking in an interview after meeting Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, he attacked the Pakistan government for being lukewarm on Kashmir.

"I think that they must be contemplating to do something more to avoid a military confrontation between the two governments," he said.

The line of control snakes through mostly forested mountain terrain where Pakistan and Indian soldiers eye each other from bunkers a few hundred metres (yards) apart.

India has long accused Islamabad of directly aiding the militants fighting for Kashmiri independence or accession to Pakistan, but it has recently stepped up the rhetoric.

Pakistan denies training or arming the gunmen and sent Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to New Delhi today to hammer home the point.

Quyyum, whose government in Muzaffarabad controls everything but defence and foreign affairs in Azad Kashmir, said he was coming under increasing pressure from Kashmiris to take action to help their brethren across the line.

Elections are scheduled in the territory for May, which could inflame already charged emotions.

Asked if he would ever advocate violence, he said: "If the whole area goes up in flames what can we do. I would be part of it. But that would be the last step."

The most dangerous aspect of the economic plan is the programme for the settlement of bad debts which itself has become a problem which needs a solution," Saadoun said.

"What the programme did was simply protect key debtors against the rule of law and proceedings of creditor banks, with the Central Bank pledging to fulfil their commitments."

He added: "As a result of this programme, five out of six banks have gotten into a deficit position, with Kuwaiti banks being classified among dangerous banks. The banks have lost their professionalism and at best have become government-run departments attached to the Central Bank," he said.

The governor of the Central Bank recently conceded that the bad debts due to Kuwaiti commercial banks totalled about KD2.2 billion (\$7.7 billion).

But he said the debts were reduced to about \$4 billion if the mortgages were taken over by the creditor banks.

Saadoun also cast doubts on the feasibility of proposals for spurring the stock market.

He said that the market, which has been stagnant since the 1982 crash, faced "political and social rather than technical impediments."

Iran regrets Baku violence

Serious steps to be taken

NICOSIA, Jan 21, (Agencies): Iran's cabinet, chaired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, expressed regret today at violence in neighbouring Soviet Azerbaijan.

Iranian television said Rafsanjani and the cabinet asked Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to "take serious measures to solve the problems and prevent the bloodshed and violence."

"The cabinet discussed the current situation in Soviet Azerbaijan and Baku in its meeting this afternoon and expressed regret about violence in the region," the television said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who ordered troops into Transcaucasia to end bloody clashes between Azeris and Armenians, has blamed extremists and Muslim fundamentalists for the violence.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday that "suspicious currents" were trying to divert Islamic demands by Soviet Azeris into senseless ethnic clashes. It urged Moscow to stop using force.

Tehran has backed Soviet Azeri demands for greater contact with Iranian Azeris, but not their calls for a united Azerbaijan.

The Iranian news agency Irna said hundreds of Shiite Muslim Azeris crossed into the Iranian border town of Astara on the Caspian coast today as a Soviet military helicopter patrolled the border.

Iranian television showed hundreds of Soviet Azeris, including children and old people, strolling through Astara streets.

Two teenagers waved portraits of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the camera.

The television said that Soviet visitors had bought all the copies of the Holy Quran in bookshops in Ardebil, a large town 60 km (40 miles) southwest of Astara.

Soviet Azeri women asked Iranians for maqna'ehs — large headscarves worn widely by Iranian women since the 1979

revolution — "to take back to the Soviet Union as a sign of Islamic dress," the television said.

Iran's official news agency said a provincial Soviet television station that broadcast a declaration of independence from Moscow was knocked off the air, apparently by a powerful explosion.

Also today, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mahdi Karrubi chastised the Soviet Union for resorting to violence to stem the clashes in Azerbaijan, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said.

"Soviet officials should know that resorting to violence is not the solution to the problem of Azerbaijan," Karrubi was quoted as telling the Majlis.

The Iranian Speaker questioned why Gorbachev had resorted to violence in Azerbaijan while going to the northern republic of Lithuania personally to discuss its secessionist moves.

"Obviously violence and toughness toward people will entail more serious consequences," Karrubi said.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani met with the Islamic Republic's National Security Council yesterday to discuss the situation in Azerbaijan, Tehran radio reported in a broadcast monitored in Nicosia. It gave no further details.

Moscow sent troops to Baku after fighting flared between the Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

Iran, said residents of the Soviet city of Lenkron on the Caspian Sea, 40 kilometres (32 miles) north of the border, had erected barricades at the gates of the city to keep the Soviet military out.

Two helicopters flew over the barricades and fired at the crowd gathered on the road that runs north up the coast from Lenkron to Baku, it said.

But travellers arriving in the Iranian border town of Astara on the Caspian Sea said the people still controlled Lenkron, Irna reported.

Unofficial figures by nationalist groups put the death toll at up to 600. "We have been checking morgues and talking to people," said a spokesman for the Nationalist Popular Front. "The morgues are all full."

Soviet media said shooting continues through the night and morning but Yavuz Dzhalalov, a Moscow spokesman for the Front, said gunfire was confined late to the Salyanysky barracks, site of running battles yesterday.

Soviet military spokesmen said snipers who had seized apartments opposite the barracks were pinning troops down and preventing them from leaving.

A correspondent for the Communist youth daily Komsomolskaya Pravda said he had counted eight corpses outside the barracks yesterday.

Najaf Najafov, a spokesman for the Front in Baku, said relatives were unable to collect the bodies because of persistent shooting.

Official accounts spoke of fighting in Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani territory bordering Iran and Turkey where Armenian militants were said to have staged raids on villages.

Nakhichevan, a small autonomous region, declared yesterday that it was seceding from the Soviet Union. Moscow has made no public comment.

Dzhalalov said he believed the republic's Parliament would denounce the introduction of the emergency measures, ordered from Moscow in a decree signed by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The official Tass news agency said a session of the Baku city council had already condemned the measures and demanded the removal of troops from the city.

Parliamentary deputy and poet Bakhtiyar Vagab-Zade called on fellow deputies in a Radio Baku broadcast "to use all means possible" to attend the parliamentary session.

"It is essential that you participate," he declared in the broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The wife of one deputy said thousands of people were gathering outside the Parliament although all public gatherings are banned under the emergency regulations.

The emergency regulations also impose an 11 pm to 6 am curfew and empower security forces to detain suspects for long periods without charge.

Tass said troops dispersed group of "extremists" in Baku harbour after they threatened to blow up a tanker.

Residents said buildings were draped in black flags and most radio broadcasts consisted of solemn music.

The Interior Ministry said the 62 deaths occurred in the hours following the army assault on barricades manned by nationalists.

But Azerbaijan's chief representative to Moscow, Sobrab Ibrahimov, told a news conference today that unofficial figures put the death toll alone at 500.

Aquino turns down call for snap presidential elections

MANILA, Jan 21, (Reuter): President Corazon Aquino has turned down opposition calls for a snap election in the Philippines, telling her rivals to wait until scheduled presidential polls in 1992 to get a crack at power.

In her weekly radio broadcast today Aquino also said she was determined to prosecute a provincial governor who backed last month's army coup and defied her orders to step down.

He was forcibly evicted from office yesterday to face charges of rebellion.

"The constitution says the next presidential elections will be held in May 1992. Those who want to be president should run in 1992 and be chosen by our people, and not be installed through force or by calling snap elections," she said.

Last week's visit to Manila by US President George Bush's security adviser, Robert Gates, triggered speculation in the local press that he would suggest snap elections to defuse the political crisis facing her government.

"I instructed them to remain true and loyal to the constitution," she said today. "I told them the country is depending on them to remain loyal to the constitution."

Aquino said the government would take "a very firm position" in prosecuting Cagayan provincial Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo whom she had ordered suspended for backing the coup.

"This government is determined to bring to justice those who have betrayed our country," she said. See Page 2

"This government is determined to bring to justice those who have betrayed our country," she said. See Page 2



Whose god?

A member of a religious cult displays a photograph of deposed Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos with an inscription saying 'Most high god the father' during the burial of Marcos' mother Josefa in Batang, north of Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

Officials said it was the worst outbreak of violence in India's only Muslim-majority state.

Ravling broke out in the city yesterday after Indian security forces raided homes, arrested at least 300 people and threatened to shoot curfew-breakers on sight in a new crackdown on Muslim revolt.

Late last night militants broadcast over loudspeakers on Srinagar's mosques, urging people to defy the curfew and go in the streets to protest against the crackdown.

Witnesses said much of the city's population of 800,000 appeared to have turned out.

Today's violence set fire to a government office and a wooden bridge in Srinagar and two bombs exploded in the city. But there were no casualties, police officials said.

Government-run radio and television repeatedly appealed to people to go home, assuring them there would be no more house searches and arrests.

At least 47 people have been killed in Jammu-Kashmir state since the beginning of the year in violence triggered by Muslim militants demanding independence or union with Islamic Pakistan.

The separatists, led by the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, have often attacked government offices and police officials.

"The situation is tense and dangerous," the state's Chief Secretary, Moosa Raza, said in Jammu.

Nomani said the police dispatched 25 cars with loudspeakers into the city, to appeal to people to honour a curfew. The cars were escorted by heavily armed troops from the paramilitary central reserve police force, he said.

An around-the-clock curfew was imposed yesterday in a bid to quell escalating violence and mass anti-India demonstrations in Srinagar and nearby adjoining towns of the state's Kashmir region.

But late last night, crowds defied curfew and surged into downtown Srinagar chanting "Indian dogs go back" and "long live Pakistan," local reporters said.

They said the paramilitary troops opened fire, killing two people instantly and injuring 14 others. Four of them died later. As news of the shooting spread, thousands of Muslim men poured out of their homes, the reporters said.

They said protesters recited verses from the Holy Quran. Some took up a chant urging "mujahadeen," or Islamic holy warriors, to prepare for the fight against Indian rule with India's Hindu-dominated government.

Jammu-Kashmir's former state chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, issued a statement accusing authorities of letting loose a "reign of terror and repression" in Kashmir.

Abdullah's government resigned Friday to protest the appointment of Singh's nominee as the state's new governor and imposition of governor's rule, which amounts to tighter federal control over the state.

The curfew order was one of the first acts of the new governor, Jagmohan, a tough administrator who had cracked down on Kashmiri militants during an earlier stint as the state's governor. Jagmohan, a Hindu who uses one name, took office Friday.

The latest violence in the state erupted shortly before the visit of Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to the Indian capital, New Delhi today.

KD85 halts millionaire

A KUWAITI millionaire was recently stopped at the airport from travelling abroad because he had not settled a bill for KD85.

The millionaire, who had planned a business tour, was to board the flight for Europe when officials at the airport found his name on the "banned from travel" list.

The millionaire, apparently had not paid a bill for plumbing to a sanitary company, which had instituted proceedings against him.

Later, when the KD85 bill was settled at the Justice Ministry, officials lifted the ban on travel.

Aquino, in fighting mood, rejects snap polls

MANILA, Jan 21. (Reuters) President Corazon Aquino has ruled out snap elections as a solution to the political crisis in the Philippines and appears determined to thwart all attempts to remove her before her term ends in 1992.

Aquino, who celebrates her 57th birthday on Thursday, is in fighting mood, and visitors who have met her privately at Malacanang Palace describe her as "very confident" despite a rash of rumours about a fresh attempt to topple her.

Typically, she will spend her birthday launching a programme to combat widespread poverty in the central Philippine

island of Samar as part of an attempt to refocus government efforts on tackling grassroots problems.

Seven weeks after the sixth and most serious coup attempt against her in almost four years, Aquino's government remains saddled with an image of near-impotence and an inability to deliver the goods, analysts said.

Aquino has warned that the next coup could succeed unless the country rallies to the defence of democracy and constitutional government.

Few even among the armed forces are prepared to defend abstract ideas when

there are regular power shortages, widespread corruption, long delays in bureaucracy and the justice system, public transport is inadequate and garbage is allowed to pile up in Manila, Philippine politicians said.

Aquino's problems are daunting. She faces a divided military, a severely weakened economy, a simmering communist insurgency and a feudal political structure that gives local chiefs extensive power in areas they control.

Since the coup, Aquino has tried to give her government a new lift, reshuffling the cabinet, firing her intelligence chief and

strengthening the presidential office by appointing three co-ordinators with cabinet rank to help run the country.

The impact of capturing four top leaders of the December 1-7 putsch was partially offset by the action of the pro-rebel governor of the northern Cagayan province, Rodolfo Aguinaldo, who successfully defied a government order to step down to face rebellion charges.

Police and armoured units eventually managed yesterday to install a new governor after a 12-day stand-off.

The daily Globe newspaper said in an editorial that Aguinaldo had already done

his work for the rightwing army rebels, who have joined forces with supporters of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

He has brilliantly completed his mission, which was to demonstrate the impotence of the Aquino government, its isolation from the mainstream military, the inutility of laws and the residual power of the rebels after the abortive coup, said the Globe, which is published by Aquino's speechwriter.

Aquino has begun a series of meetings with junior military officers to discuss their problems and secure their loyalty in case of a further mutiny.

The rebels, led by ex-colonel Gregorio

Honasan, have accused Aquino of weak leadership and threatened to replace her with a military-civilian junta.

Possibly prompted by concern about the continued state of coup rumours in the Philippines, President George Bush sent senior foreign policy adviser Robert Gates to Manila to meet Aquino last week.

The arrival of Gates, Bush's deputy national security adviser and a former deputy head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), set tongues wagging about a possible "hidden agenda" from the United States, which helped remove former dictator Marcos in 1986 when Aquino took over.

Marcos mother entombed at last

Calls for reconciliation

BATAK, Philippines, Jan 21. (AP) The body of Ferdinand Marcos' mother was temporarily entombed today, 20 months after she died, ending a vigil by supporters of the late president who had hoped mother and son could be reunited in death.

Marcos supporters used the entombment of Josefa Edralin-Marcos, who died May 4, 1988 at age 95, to denounce the government of President Corazon Aquino and to call for national reconciliation.

About 1,000 people, including local officials, gathered at the body of Mrs Edralin-Marcos was placed in a glass-and-wood structure behind the Marcos family home, where she had been lying in state.

"We don't want a political colour to this ceremony," said Rev. Domingo Nebres, who had officiated at the entombment of Marcos in Hawaii last October.

"We want a loving tribute to Dona Josefa. ... She is a woman who did not construct monuments that can be destroyed later but was the mother of a president who served us for 20 years to protect our country from communistic hands."

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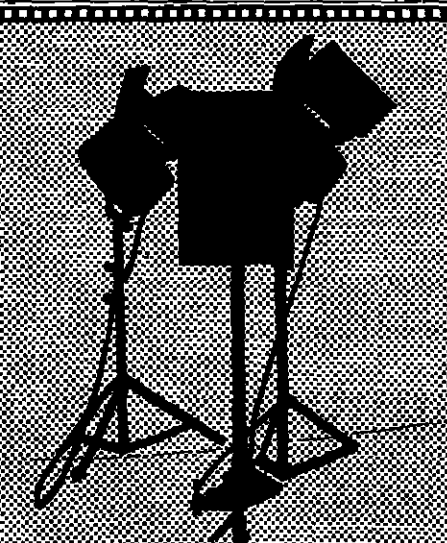
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Nebres recited a message from Marcos' widow, Imelda, thanking people in this Marcos stronghold for "accompanying my beloved momma" to her resting place.

Relatives said a refrigerated concrete structure would be built over the wooden crypt next month to serve as a temporary tomb until she could be buried permanently alongside the former president, who died last Sept 28 in Honolulu.

Mrs Aquino has refused to allow Marcos' body to be returned to his homeland. Mrs Aquino took power in the February 1986 uprising which toppled Marcos and forced him into exile in Hawaii.

Although Marcos was temporarily entombed in Hawaii, his family said his body would someday be returned for burial here in his hometown, 240 miles (385 kms) north of Manila.

At the Roman Catholic mass before the entombment, Rodolfo Farinas, governor of Ilocos Norte province, said there would be no peace in the northern Marcos strongholds until the former president could be buried in his homeland.

"They (government) are afraid of the fierce loyalties of the Ilocanos," Farinas said. "Let us stand up. We will show them that we are loyal within the bounds of the law."

"Let us all join hands, let us give them an assurance, show them that nothing will go wrong if the body (of Marcos) is returned here and show them that we can be trusted," he added.

Former National Assembly Speaker Nicanor Yniguez, fighting back tears, said the government's refusal to allow mother and son to be buried together was a sign of "vindictiveness and vengeance."

Several elderly women in the crowd wept during the ceremony. Others wore Marcos campaign T-shirts from the 1986 election against Mrs Aquino.

After her death in Manila, Mrs Edralin-Marcos' body was brought to this town in Ilocos Norte province, where Marcos supporters hoped to use it as a rallying point to pressure the government into allowing the body of the former president to be returned for the burial.

After Marcos died, his relatives urged the government to allow the return of the body for a joint burial of mother and son.

Mrs Aquino, however, cited national security in refusing the request. She also barred members of Marcos' immediate family from returning home.

Vice-President Salvador Laurel's wife, Cecilia, who attended the services, described the ban on Marcos' body as "oppressive and strong."

Conrado Estrella, Marcos' former agriculture minister, said the refusal to allow Marcos' body to return was "a betrayal of reconciliation."

"The death of Dona Josefa and President Marcos will open the eyes of the people ... we will continue to fight for the return of the body of President Marcos to the country."

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Bhopal accord will be ditched

BHOPAL, Jan 21. (AP) Prime Minister V.P. Singh told survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster today that his government would scrap the \$470 million settlement with Union Carbide.

He also announced before a crowd estimated at 100,000 people that his government would pursue criminal charges and the \$3 billion originally sought from the US-based multinational.

"We believe there can be no deal over human corpses," Singh said, referring to the settlement accepted last year by the Indian Supreme Court and the government of then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Huge crowds greeted Singh on his first visit to Bhopal, where more than 3,000 people were reported killed or fatally injured Dec 3, 1984, when poison gas leaked from a Union Carbide storage tank nearby.

A flower garland was draped around Singh's neck and people in the crowd knelt to touch his feet as the prime minister walked among huts of bamboo, mud brick and cardboard in the shantytown near the now-closed plant.

At the huge public rally, Singh declared: "We have decided to do away with the settlement and pursue the \$3 billion suit against the company and also the criminal suit against UCC (Union Carbide Corp.) officials."

He promised that his government would provide interim relief to all persons affected by the tragedy, saying the money to be paid would be determined within a month.

"We must look at the Bhopal gas tragedy as a national disaster and involve all organisations to provide succour to the survivors," Singh declared.

The prime minister, who took over from Rajiv on Dec 2, did not provide specifics as to how his government would re-open the legal case in the world's deadliest industrial disaster.

Last Feb 15, the Supreme Court accepted a \$470 million settlement as "full and final" in connection with a government lawsuit, which had been dragging through the Indian courts for about four years.

The Rajiv government had originally sought \$3 billion in damages and later filed criminal negligence charges against top officials of Union Carbide Corp. and its local subsidiary, Union Carbide of India Ltd.

When Union Carbide and the Rajiv government agreed on the lesser amount of \$470 million, the Supreme Court absolved the Danbury, Connecticut-based company of further civil or criminal liability.

Islamic meet Prayer for global peace

DHAKA, Jan 21. (Reuters) Nearly one million Muslims from around the world gathered to pray for Islamic brotherhood and global peace on the banks of a river near Dhaka.

The three-day Bisha Ejlama meeting is the biggest Islamic congregation after the haj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, organisers said.

The meeting began on Saturday beside the Turag river, 11 miles (17 km) north of the Bangladesh capital. Pickpockets and disturbances have marred the occasion.

Among the participants were 20,000 faithful from India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United States and European and African countries.



Punjab is crying

A woman and child mourn in Bawianwali Balaggan, a Punjab village near the Pakistan border, after the deaths of some of their relatives who were among

eight people killed when Sikh extremists attacked the village. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajneesh died of 'poisoning'

Followers flock to Pune commune

NEW DELHI, Jan 21. (AP) Thousands of followers of Indian guru Osho Rajneesh flocked to his commune yesterday to celebrate his spirit's release through death, which aides alleged was caused by poisoning in US jails.

Rajneesh, 58, who advocated free love, died at his headquarters in the city of Pune on Friday. Commune spokesman Swami Chaitanya Kirti said at least 15,000 followers visited the centre yesterday, chanting mantras, meditating and dancing to mark the freeing of his spirit from its earthly manifestation.

"There was too much of a rush," Kirti said in a telephone interview. "They celebrated. They came to hear Osho's last words."

The spokesman said the guru's last message, communicated through his doctor, said he would be always among his followers.

"Never speak of me in the past tense," Rajneesh said in his last message, according to Kirti. "My presence here will be greater without the presence of my tortured body."

Rajneesh died of a heart attack. But a press statement released yesterday said he died because "living in the body had become a hell" after it was allegedly poisoned when he was in US jails.

"In his final message Osho said that since the days in jail in Charlotte, North Carolina, his body has been deteriorating," the statement, read out to the Associated Press by telephone, said.

"While he was in Oklahoma county jail, he was poisoned with heavy metal thallium. They exposed him to radiation in a way that it (the alleged poisoning) will not leave any proof," the statement said.

"Osho had said he had kept the pain to himself but living in the body had become a hell," the statement said.

Rajneesh returned to his native India when he was deported from the United States in 1985, after pleading guilty to violating federal immigration laws by arranging sham marriages.

A US court fined him \$400,000, gave him a 10-year suspended prison sentence and ordered him to leave the country. His once-famous commune in Oregon, the Rancho Rajneesh, was disbanded.

He returned to India but left a month later when the government deported 10 of his aides.

For six months he roamed the world in search of a home, but he was refused entry or permission to linger in 21 countries. In July 1986, he returned to India where he had founded his movement.

He reopened a 6-acre (2.4-hectare) commune in a fashionable residential district of Pune to perpetuate his 23-year-old cult.

Rajneesh, with a full grey beard and hypnotic gaze, drew tens of thousands of seekers to his commune each year, ranging from latter-day hippies to an Indian movie star.

He switched from using the honorific Hindu word for God, "Bhagwan," a year ago in favour of the Buddhist term Osho, which means "on whom the heavens shower flowers."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-drug crusade: New York City's special narcotics prosecutor this week took his anti-drug crusade to South Asia, proposing that the Pakistani government toughen its laws against drug trafficking.

In an interview, Sterling Johnson praised the efforts of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto but said her government should streamline its drug laws and enact new anti-drug legislation to control narcotics smuggling.

Johnson pointed to the success US authorities have had with recently enacted law such as those permitting the confiscation of drug dealers' assets. (UPI)

Sri Lanka returns to normal: The situation in trouble-torn Sri Lanka has returned to normal in the course of the last week, according to a high-ranking official of the island's Joint Operations Command (JOC).

The official said Sunday there were no killing of civilians by Sinhalese subversives and that people were seen moving about even in the night which they feared to do even the week before and business houses

were open and business went on as usual. Universities and schools were open and there were no incidents reports from any of these institutions during the week the official said.

However, there had been incidents of armed robbery which were attributable to mere acts of criminal gangs and that most of these gangs have been apprehended, the others having been put on the wanted list, the official said. (Kuna)

Saarc summit may postpone: The Sixth South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc) summit scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in April, may have to be postponed once again according to a spokesman from the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman said April is the (holy Muslim) month of Ramadan. Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Maldives are strict and rigorous observers of this important and significant obligation.

"The Ramadan fast goes on for at least 30 days. Hence, with three of the six-member organisation (the other three countries being India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) observing Ramadan it will have to be postponed to probably end of May." (Kuna)

Nepali Congress to launch campaign

KATHMANDU, Jan 21. (AP) The largest gathering by an opposition group in 30 years ended yesterday with the outlawed Nepali Congress Party demanding restoration of democratic rights.

The three-day convention was the largest gathering by an opposition group since the existing non-political "panchayat" system was introduced in 1960.

Although the party, like all other political organisations, had been banned for the past three decades, the meeting was held without any government interference.

"Our movement will be for the restoration of full democracy and we will carry out our movement totally in a peaceful manner," the outlawed party's acting president, K.P. Bhattarai, told newsmen.

A total 3,500 delegates from 73 of the mountainous country's 75 districts attended the convention. Seven Indian parliamentarian observers, headed by Chandra Shekhar of the ruling National Front Alliance, also attended.

Movement

The convention chose Feb 18 for launching the democracy movement. "It is an auspicious day," Bhattarai said. On Feb 18, 1951, the Nepali Congress overthrew the 104-year-old Rana family rule.

The Congress plans demonstrations all over the country demanding revival of a Western-style multi-party system.

In May 1985, the Nepali Congress launched a peaceful anti-government movement with demands for more democratic rights. But Congress leaders stopped that campaign in response to terrorist bombing in several parts of the city that killed seven people and injured several others.

The bombings were the work of a revolutionary group with no links to the Nepali Congress.

Resolution

In a concluding resolution the party blamed the monarchy for the country's economic malaise and seeking world-wide support for their efforts.

"The country is sliding downhill economically and as a result the country has become one of the poorest in the world," the resolution said.

"They (the government) have left nothing undone to destroy the democratic movement," the statement said. "This has compelled us to take some concrete action in the country to carry out our responsibility, to be able to work for the cause of the people."

The Nepali Congress, considered the kingdom's largest opposition group, has socialist leanings and has waged a 29-year struggle for restoration of political parties banned since 1960.

Rejected

The Nepali Congress initially rejected communist calls for united action in seeking political reform but since has decided to join the communists in seeking a multi-party system.

"Everybody now realises that without democracy you cannot do anything, let alone propagate a multi-party system in Nepal," the opposition party's most senior leader, Ganesh Man Singh, said in an interview. "Everybody now realises there must be democracy. All are now aware unity in action is now needed."

About 7,000 supporters rallied outside the opposition party's opening session Thursday in one of the largest mass meetings in the Nepalese capital in recent memory, but government officials took no action to disrupt the session.

The opposition party leaders claimed, however, that about 20 of their delegates were detained without charge earlier in the week before they could travel to Kathmandu.

Protest

In a protest of Indian support for the opposition movement, three pro-government Nepali politicians delivered a written complaint Friday to Chandra Shekhar, the senior leader of the Janata Dal, a constituent of the National Front government in India, at his hotel room in Kathmandu.

Philippine Muslim rebels deny killing Swiss Red Cross worker

COTABATO, Philippines, Jan 21. (Reuters) Muslim separatists denied involvement today in the murder of a Swiss Red Cross official and a Filipino companion in the southern Philippines and pledged to help the military capture the killers.

An army commander in Maguindanao province, where Walter Berweger and his Filipino driver were gunned down in an ambush on Friday, said initial investigation showed the victims were shot by a group of teenage boys demanding money.

"We are revolutionaries and we will never allow any kind of offence against non-combatants, especially Red Cross workers," Muslim rebel leader Muslimen Sema said.

"We will, in this instance, help our enemy (the Philippine military) run after the killers for the justice of the slain Red Cross people," Sema said in a statement released in the Maguindanao capital of Cotabato.

Sema commands the Maguindanao for-

ces of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which is fighting for a separate Muslim state on Mindanao island, 800 km (500 miles) south of Manila.

Two cars, one carrying Berweger, a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, were travelling to the Muslim town of Buldon when they were stopped by a group of gunmen who demanded money, area commander colonel Wilfredo Villanueva told reporters.

Villanueva, quoting local residents, said Berweger and his group identified themselves as Red Cross workers but the gang of boys, armed with automatic rifles and dressed in fatigues, "did not seem to understand what the Red Cross means, what it's all about."

Berweger was shot in the neck when he and his group tried to flee, survivors said. Government forces have launched a manhunt for the killers, a military spokesman said.

Star of classics Barbara is dead

SANTA MONICA, California, Jan 21, (UPI) — Actress Barbara Stanwyck, star of such movie classics as "Stella Dallas," "Double Indemnity" and "Sorry, Wrong Number," died of heart failure Saturday at the age of 82.

Stanwyck, nominated for four Oscars, never won an Academy Award for her acting, but she received a special Academy Award for her long and distinguished career in 1982.

Stanwyck, hospitalized for several weeks due to reactions to changing medications for a recurring back problem, died at 5 pm at St. John's hospital of heart failure, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Larry Kleno, Stanwyck's publicist for 20 years, said seven people were at the actress' bedside at the time of her death, including Nancy Sinatra Sr., Nancy Sinatra Jr., nephew Eugene Vaslet and his wife, niece Kathleen Carr, grand-niece Christian Patten, as well as Kleno.

Orphan

The publicist said the Sinatras were long-time family friends of the actress.

Stanwyck injured her back three years ago, just prior to receiving an American Film Institute award.

Kleno said.

Stanwyck, born July 16, 1907, was a Brooklyn orphan who became a chorus girl at 15 and later a Hollywood legend whose acting career spanned nearly 60 years.

After being passed over for an Academy Award four times, the actress received a special Oscar for her long and distinguished career in 1982.

On April 9, 1987, the veteran of 88 movies and more than 200 hours of TV showed received the American Film Institute's life-achievement award.

Ovation

Stanwyck, hospitalized for a week with a spinal fracture, arrived by ambulance and appeared only at the end of the 3 1/2-hour ceremony — to an ovation by 2,000 celebrities and show business luminaries.

"I want to thank the American Film Institute for this wonderful evening," Stanwyck said. "My first films were hopelessly bad and I decided to go back to the theatre. But a man at Columbia (studios) saw something. And thank God for Frank Capra, who asked me to star in another film and taught me all about films from beginning to end. That's why I'm here tonight."

The actress, whose dazzling red hair turned to shining silver over the years, was married to Frank Fay and then to Robert Taylor, and her list of leading men read like a who's who of Hollywood.

Among her movies were "Stella Dallas" in 1937, "Ball of Fire" in 1942, "Double Indemnity" in 1944 and "Sorry, Wrong Number" in 1948, for which she won an Oscar nomination.

Leading men

Her leading men included Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Glenn Ford, Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, William Holden, John Wayne, Humphrey Bogart, Henry Fonda, Errol Flynn and Robert Taylor, in whom she was married for 11 years.

In 1966, she received the annual Screen Actors Guild Award for outstanding achievement. The presentation was made by Ronald Reagan, then Governor of California.

Stanwyck was honoured by the Film Society of Lincoln Centre in New York in 1981.

An Emmy Award winner for her 1960s television series, "The Big Valley," Stanwyck won the honour again for her role in the 1983 mini-series "The Thorn Birds" with Richard Chamberlain. In 1985 she starred as the family matriarch in the weekly series "The Colbys."

Born Ruby Stevens in Brooklyn, NY on July 16, 1907, the youngest of five children, Stanwyck was orphaned at the age of 4. She was alternately cared for by her chorus girl sister, Mildred, and foster families.

Chorus girl

She became a chorus girl herself at 15, working in New York cabarets and a bit in the Ziegfeld "Follies." A friend introduced her to Willard Mack, a playwright, producer, director and actor, who hired her for one of his shows, "The Noose." It was a hit, and during that engagement that Ruby Stevens became Barbara Stanwyck.

The name came from an old playbill advertising "Jane Stanwyck in Barbara Fritchie." The combination became Barbara Stanwyck.

In New York the actress met and married entertainer Frank Fay. Convinced of his wife's talent, Fay took her to Hollywood and helped her get a screen test.

Eventually Fay's contacts led to a role in the 1930 movie "Ladies of Leisure."

In later years she lived alone in a small house in Beverly Hills and devoted herself to her career, appearing in television shows, and starring in a series, "The Big Valley." She was considered something of a loner, was rarely seen at night clubs or even dinner parties.



File photo of Barbara Stanwyck. (Reuter wirephoto)

Born On the Fourth Of July named best

Golden Globe awards



Pfeiffer and Cruise pose with awards. (Reuter wirephoto)

GG lineup

The winners

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Jan 21, (UPI) — The following is a list of the 47th annual Golden Globe Award winners announced Saturday by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association:

Movies:

Best drama: "Born on the Fourth of July."

Best actress in a drama: Michelle Pfeiffer, "The Fabulous Baker Boys."

Best actor in a drama: Tom Cruise, "Born on the Fourth of July."

Best musical or comedy: "Driving Miss Daisy."

Best actress in a comedy or musical: Jessica Tandy, "Driving Miss Daisy."

Best actor in a comedy or musical: Morgan Freeman, "Driving Miss Daisy." Best actress in a supporting role: Julia Roberts, "Steel Magnolias."

Best actor in a supporting role: Denzel Washington, "Glory."

Best film director: Oliver Stone, "Born on the Fourth of July."

Best foreign film: "Cinema Paradiso," Italy.

Best film screenplay: Oliver Stone and Ron Kovic, "Born on the Fourth of July."

Best original score: Alan Menken, "The Little Mermaid."

Best original song: "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid" music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman.

Television:

Best dramatic series: "China Beach."

Best actress in a dramatic series: Angela Lansbury, "Murder, She Wrote."

Best actor in a dramatic series: Ken Wahl, "Wiseguy."

Best musical or comedy series: "Murphy Brown."

Best actress in a musical or comedy series: Jamie Lee Curtis, "Anything But Love."

Best actor in a musical or comedy: Ted Danson, "Cheers."

Best mini-series or motion picture for television: "Lonesome Dove."

Best actress in a series, mini-series or motion picture: Christine Lahti, "No Place Like Home."

Best actor in a series, mini-series or motion picture: Robert Duvall, "Lonesome Dove."

Best supporting actress in a series, mini-series or motion picture: Amy Madigan, "Roe vs. Wade."

Best supporting actor in a series, mini-series or motion picture: Dean Cain, "Quantum Leap."



Curtis and Danson with their awards. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tax Queen: Poll

100 more years for monarchy

LONDON, Jan 21, (Kuma) — Only half the British people think the monarchy in the UK will survive the next 100 years, according to a new poll published in the Sunday Times here.

And three quarters of those asked in the Mori survey thought the British Queen Elizabeth should pay income tax and the community charge, (rates).

The queen is exempted from paying any taxes and is dubbed the richest woman in the world.

Around 88 per cent of those polled thought Prince Charles, the heir apparent, would make a good king, and 47 per cent thought the queen (63) should abdicate in his favour one day.

Two thirds thought a monarch's eldest child should succeed to the UK throne regardless of sex.

The survey showed the enduring popularity enjoyed by the royal family, despite the controversies and publicity that have pursued it in the last decade.

The Queen Mother (89), mother of Queen Elizabeth, emerges as Britain's favourite royal, followed by the Queen herself and the Prince of Wales.

Gambler surrenders to FBI keeping his promise

LOS ANGELES, Jan 21, (AP) — A former armoured car guard kept his promise and has surrendered to the FBI, two years to the day after he says he stole \$651,000.

"America is a great country," Edward Leigh Hunt Jr, 26, said as federal agents hustled him away Saturday.

Hunt — who said he gambled away the booty during his two years on the run following the Jan 20, 1988, Philadelphia holdup — said in a Dec 20 letter to his hometown paper, the Wilmington (Delaware) News Journal, that he would give himself up.

As promised, he showed up at midday Saturday in

front of the downtown Los Angeles junior chamber of commerce. Shirtless and wearing blue jeans and brown leather shoes, Hunt walked to the middle of a street, raised his arms and surrendered to four FBI agents.

"Clear the way," the agents barked at reporters and camera crews as they led Hunt, looking pale and frightened beneath wet shoulder-length hair, inside the chamber building.

Several youths who identified themselves only as friends of Hunt applauded and yelled, "Yeah, Lee," and "Let him speak," as he was led inside.

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Jan 21, (AP) — "Born On the Fourth Of July," the powerful Vietnam drama, won for best director and screenplay Saturday night at the 47th annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony.

Ron Kovic, the disabled veteran whose story was the basis for the movie, received a standing ovation in accepting the screenwriter award with co-writer and director Oliver Stone at the 47th annual Golden Globe Awards.

Injured in the war 22 years ago to the day, Kovic said in his acceptance speech that when he was shot, "I didn't even know if I was going to get off the field and live. This is the happiest day of my life."

The film, a chronicle of Kovic's transformation from a patriotic soldier to a war protester, was 12 years in the making.

Right thing

"On nights like this, for just one fleeting moment, you know you did the right thing," Stone said in accepting the best director award.

"Driving Miss Daisy," a movie about a southern spinster's relationship with her black chauffeur, collected three awards, including best musical or comic motion picture.

Another multiple movie winner was the animated film, "The Little Mermaid," winner for best original score and best original song.

Michelle Pfeiffer was named best actress in a dramatic motion picture for "The Fabulous Baker Boys."

Italy's "Cinema Paradiso" was named best foreign language film.

TV series

Julia Roberts, from "Steel Magnolias," was chosen as best supporting actress in a movie, while Denzel Washington won best supporting actor in a movie for "Glory."

In the television competition, the CBS network series "Murphy Brown" won as best musical or comic television series and "Lonesome Dove" won for best mini-series or television movie.

Robert Duvall also won for best actor in a mini-series or TV movie for "Lonesome Dove."

Diane English, the executive producer of "Murphy Brown," accepted her trophy in the international ballroom of the Beverly Hilton Hotel with the decoration from her dinner salad in her hand.

Unprepared

"Obviously, we're totally unprepared for this because I brought my dinner up here," English said, holding aloft what appeared to be a real frog, somehow preserved.

Other early winners were Ted Danson for his role on the television situation comedy "Cheers," and Jamie Lee Curtis for her role in "Anything But Love."

Director Spike Lee and actors Billy Crystal, Jessica Lange, Jessica Tandy and Michelle Pfeiffer were among the celebrities cheered by celebrity-seekers who gathered outside the event, widely viewed as a harbinger of the Academy Awards.

Vietnam war veteran Ron Kovic, whose story was the basis of "Born On the Fourth Of July" was joined by actor Tom Cruise, who portrayed Kovic in the film, considered one of the favourites among the films nominated.

Contenders

Other contenders for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globes included the movies "Glory," "When Harry Met Sally..." and "Driving Miss Daisy."

The Academy Award nominations won't be announced until Feb 14, but the Golden Globe list again shapes up as a likely measuring stick for Oscar consideration.

Last year, for example, "Rain Man" took two top Golden Globes and went on to dominate the Academy Awards. The Golden Globes also plays a key role in advertising campaigns for winning movies.

Hosts Cybill Shepherd and Sam Elliott presided over the Golden Globe ceremonies, which were broadcast on cable television. The awards include 24 trophies — 13 for movies and 11 for television.

"Born On the Fourth Of July," director Oliver Stone's gripping account of how a soldier's patriotic beliefs are exploded in the Vietnam war, had five nominations.



Lange at Globe ceremony

American actress Jessica Lange talks to reporters as she arrives at the Golden Globe Awards ceremony Jan 20. Lange has been nominated for

Best Actress in a Drama for her role in the film "The Music Box."

PEOPLE AND PLACES

FAIRFAX, Virginia: A 5-year-old boy trapped 40 minutes in an icy drainage reservoir has died at a Virginia hospital, four days after his lifeless body was pulled from the pond and doctors revived the child.

George Seiler died Friday at Fairfax hospital from a lack of oxygen to the brain, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The boy was brought to the facility Monday afternoon after falling into the drainage reservoir, but he never regained consciousness and breathed with the help of a respirator.

"Our heart goes out to the family at this difficult time," hospital spokeswoman Mary Stuart Risk said. The family was at his side when he died, she said.

The child's temperature had dropped to 90 degrees F (32 C) and his heart had stopped beating when he was pulled from the reservoir behind a row

of townhouses in Centreville, which is 20 miles (32 km) west of Washington, DC. Two older cousins had fallen in with him but were not seriously hurt. (UPI)

LOS ANGELES: Best-selling author Stephen King was sued in superior court Friday by a partnership that claims the writer should pay the cost of defending a French copyright infringement lawsuit over the 1987 film based on King's book, "The Running Man."

In the suit, Great American Entertainment Co. previously known as Taft Entertainment Motion Pictures/Keith Barish Productions, seeks to recover the cost of defending "The Running Man" in a copyright infringement case in France.

King wrote "The Running Man" under the pseudonym of Richard Bachman in 1982 and sold the rights in 1983. Two years later Great American

obtained the rights and made a film based on the book in 1987.

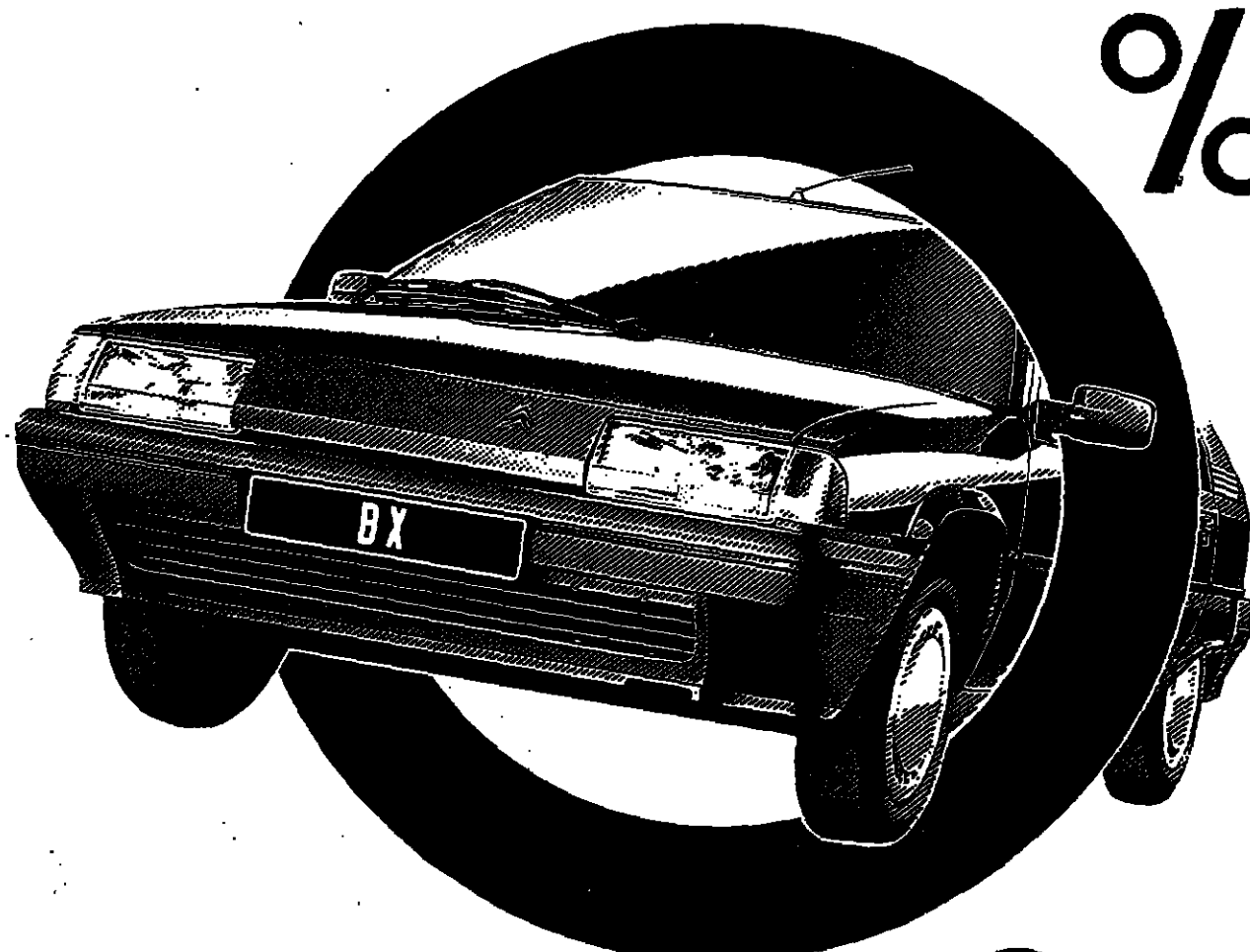
In October 1988, a French court decided that the 1987 American film had violated the copyright of a French film, "Le Prix du Dange" and awarded the French plaintiffs one-half the producer's share of monies derived from the distribution of "The Running Man" in France, the suit said. (UPI)

BRUSSELS: Belgium, whose country has one of the highest concentrations of nuclear power stations in the world, could be issued soon with iodine anti-radiation pills in case of disaster.

A spokeswoman for Belgian public health authorities told Reuters on Friday of plans to issue the pills to private homes, schools and factories as part of a civil disaster plan. The Interior Ministry has yet to approve the measure.

Iodine helps fight the effects of nuclear fall-out.

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Barry finally faces reality

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): Marion Shepilov Barry Jr., mayor of the US capital, used to brag that he was the fellow who hadn't been caught, while many of his chums and associates, even a former wife, had gone to jail.

He had his vices, he acknowledged. But, as he told the Los Angeles Times in a memorable barroom interview just a month ago: "I'm not stupid enough to have done the things they accuse me of. God gave me a good brain."

"What I have done," he said, "nobody knows about, because I don't get caught."

Cocksure
In that same conversation, Marion Barry, 53, had pronounced himself politically "invincible" after 11 years as mayor. And for a few moments Friday, he seemed just as cocksure when he was led into a federal courtroom to be arraigned on a misdemeanor charge of possession of crack cocaine — the very drug that is the scourge of the city and has turned it into the nation's murder capital.

With a dignified stride, he headed for the table marked "defendant" and, with rock-steady nerves, poured a glass of water to the brim. He leaped a courtroom aide, who was focusing on him through tiny binoculars, by encircling his own eyes with his fingers.

Then the magistrate noted that, if convicted, Marion Barry could go to jail for a year. Suddenly, the mayor's facial muscles betrayed him. The cool smile vanished, replaced by clenched teeth. Perhaps only then had reality sunk in.

Despite numerous allegations of drug abuse, womanising, mystery trips and inattention to the city's business, Barry had planned to announce his candidacy for a fourth term as mayor today. Backed by a city political machine rivaling that of the late Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, few would have ruled out a victory — even with the prospect that Washington's other prominent black leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, was himself eyeing the office.

In tears
No more. Barry, in tears, yielded day-to-day control of the city government on Friday to a deputy, Carol B. Thompson, saying he wanted to devote his time to preparing his defence. The government's case against him includes a positive urine test for cocaine and a videotape that allegedly shows him buying and smoking crack in a hotel room occupied by a long-time girlfriend who co-operated with the FBI.

A close adviser to Barry said yesterday the mayor planned to enter a substance abuse treatment programme, and a local television station reported that decisions about whether he would run for re-election were on hold for at least 30 days.

For years, Barry's black supporters — including Jackson, who was a fellow lieutenant in Martin Luther King's civil rights crusade — had lined up behind the mayor when he denied misconduct and swore, time and again, that he had never used drugs. By his account, such reports were generated by a venal white media and a Republican presidential administration eager to reclaim the reins of city government from the black community.

Loss for words
But, while Jackson, rarely at a loss for words, held his tongue over the mayor's arrest, others felt pushed over the brink. Especially in the schools, where Barry, like Jackson, routinely preached against the evils of cocaine, the sense of betrayal erupted in shouts of pain and despair.

Among community and political allies, the dismay extended to another question as well. That was how a man who prides himself on his intelligence, and who was already under scrutiny for alleged drug use, could have walked into such a trap?

US attorney Jay Stephens said Barry's arrest at a downtown hotel was "part of the ongoing investigation of a broad range of allegations" against the mayor, dating to the discovery that he had visited a known drug dealer, Charles Lewis, in another hotel a year ago.

Lewis was sentenced Friday to 15 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute and possess cocaine. He had told the court during his trial that he obtained crack cocaine for Barry on at least three occasions.



Record set for angioplasty

Cesar Portillo holds daughter Alyssa Jan 16 after doctors performed successful angioplasty procedure on the baby Jan 11, in what they believe to be the smallest baby to undergo the operation.

Valencia Portillo gave birth to twins after 30 weeks of pregnancy. Alyssa was diagnosed to have blockage of the aorta causing heart failure. Doctors performed an emergency angioplasty. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barco hints at flexibility

Amnesty rejected

BOGOTA, Jan 21, (AP): Colombian President Virgilio Barco has for the first time said the government would be flexible in its struggle against drug traffickers.

"The (anti-drug) policy of the government, which must enforce the law, is flexible because the law itself offers alternatives without departing from the constitutional order," said the President in a message published yesterday in Bogota's El Tiempo newspaper.

"It is simplistic to believe that the only two alternatives are either blind, obstinate repression or an open, indefinite dialogue with the criminals."

The latest message was the second in less than eight hours to respond to Wednesday's communiqué by the Medellín cartel admitting defeat before the government's anti-drug offensive. The cartel offered to abandon the cocaine trade, to lay down its arms and to release its hostages in exchange for unspecified constitutional and legal guarantees.

Several Colombian newspapers and politicians have said the traffickers are using veiled language to ask for two things: an end to extradition and an amnesty for past crimes.

The government appears to have rejected an amnesty. Barco in a communiqué Friday said it was his duty to bring the criminals to justice.

The President did not, however, mention the extradition of drug suspects to the United States. He said only that the cartel's communiqué had created "a new situation" with certain legal alternatives.

Barco decreed extradition on Aug 18, hours after traffickers assassinated a leading presidential candidate, Sen. Luis Carlos Galán. Since then the government has extradited 13 drug sus-

pects to the US.

The crackdown has included confiscation of hundreds of properties allegedly belonging to the drug traders. And police killed a Medellín cartel leader, Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, in a gunfight last December.

The Medellín traffickers, who refer to themselves as the Extraditables, retaliated with a terrorist campaign that has killed 209 persons and injured over 1,000.

The cartel's leaders are also accused of killing a justice minister, an attorney general, a newspaper publisher and scores of other Colombian leaders in recent years.

The traffickers fear extradition because they view the US justice system as less susceptible than its Colombian counterpart to bribes and intimidation. The Extraditables have repeatedly stated their preference for a grave in Colombia to a jail cell in the US.

Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds, responding to the traffickers' admission of defeat, said last week that the government would not abandon extradition because it is an indispensable weapon.

Meanwhile, Colombian authorities pressed their war on the drug producers, seizing a cocaine processing laboratory in the town of Cartago in northern Valle department, police spokesman has said.

The government suspended and arrested two police officers accused of taking a bribe to release a man accused of murder and cocaine trafficking.

Colonel Angel Cardozo, head of the anti-drug police in the city of Santa Cruz, and Major David Díaz will be prosecuted "severely" for freeing a known trafficker, undersecretary of the Interior Gonzalo Torrico said Saturday.

Britain, Argentina resume air links

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 21, (AP): Argentina and Britain have resumed direct air links Saturday for the first time since the 1982 Falkland Islands war.

An Aerolíneas Argentinas flight departed Buenos Aires at 8:00 pm (2200 GMT), and at 10:30 pm (2230 GMT) a British Airways jet departed London for the Argentine capital.

"We're planning a little celebration" at Ezeiza international airport, British Airways regional manager Ian Gillespie said. "Six pipers from the Buenos Aires St. Andrews society of the River Plate will pipe the passengers off."

The two countries severed relations at the outbreak of the war, which Argentina touched off by invading the South Atlantic islands it claimed it inherited from Spain upon declaring independence in 1810.

Britain counterattacked and recovered the sparsely populated territory of sheepherders and fishermen it has ruled since 1833.

The issue of sovereignty blocked talks for years. President Carlos Menem made improving ties with Britain a priority since taking office last July, and temporarily set aside — without giving up Argentina's claim — the issue of ownership.

Trade and travel restrictions were lifted last October. Interest sections were upgraded to consulates last month.

The container ship *Isla Soledad* was the first Argentine vessel to dock at a British port in nearly eight years when it reached Felixstowe on Jan 5. The British cargo carrier *Chamorro* entered Buenos Aires port two days later.

Talks set for February in Madrid will mark "a decisive stage" towards renewing diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Argentina, Menem said last week.

The resumption of "direct" flights really is a continuation of services Aerolíneas and British Airways have offered for about two years.

Aerolíneas' Britain-bound flights will continue to London from Madrid, where passengers had been dropped off and picked up by British Airways.

British Airways' Argentina-bound flights will continue to Buenos Aires from Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, where passengers had been dropped off and picked up by Aerolíneas.

Documents may favour Noriega

Ex-dictator worked to cut drug flow: claim

MIAMI, Jan 21, (UPI): A lawyer for deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega said Saturday that documents which may have fallen into the hands of the US government could prove crucial to the former strongman's defence.

The government was under orders Saturday to preserve documents and other items belonging to Noriega and to begin an inventory of that property. The documents, according to the defence, show that Noriega worked to reduce the flow of drugs into the United States.

US magistrate William Turnoff directed the government Friday to prepare the inventory after a defence attorney for Noriega filed a motion indicating that some of the documents may prove favourable to the defence.

Charges likely

Women soldiers

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): US military authorities are examining possible charges against two female soldiers who refused to drive other soldiers into downtown Panama City at the peak of the US invasion, according to defence sources.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the women "feared for their lives" in the mission, which involved ferrying troops into the snipe-filled city after sunrise on the first day of the invasion.

"Tears were involved," said one source. The source cautioned that although charges may be considered for such a thing as disobeying a direct order, that does not mean that any would be brought.

Army policy bars women from being sent into combat, but some 600 women were among the troops who invaded Panama on Dec 20 to oust Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

These women were members of units assigned "support" functions, not front-line combat roles, even though some of their assignments resulted in females coming under fire.

Capt Linda Bray has gotten wide publicity for leading a military police company engaged in a firefight before capturing a Panamanian defence forces barracks and dog kennel.

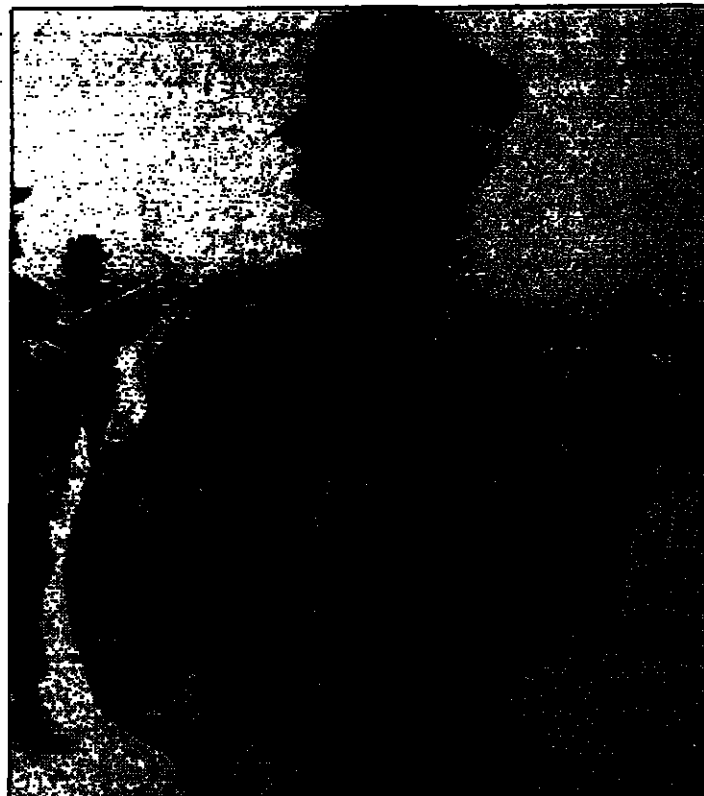
A Defence Department spokesman, Lt. Cmdr Ken Satterfield, declined to comment on the report that the women broke down in tears and refused to drive into a combat area. He said he was unable to speculate on any possible charges being brought against the two women.

US Army officials are looking into the incident and will determine what action, if any, is appropriate in the best interests of the army and the individuals concerned, Satterfield said.

Asked about the details of the incident, the spokesman said the two female soldiers "were unable to make a trip to drive combat soldiers" in the early morning hours of Dec 20.

The two women were drivers assigned to the 193rd support battalion, he said.

The women belonged to a battalion that was supposed to provide support to all army units normally assigned to Panama, as well as the reinforcements brought in for the operation, Satterfield said.



Peruvian narcotics police officer all geared up to combat the drug trade. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anti-cocaine base in Peru

War on drugs

SANTA LUCIA, Peru, Jan 21, (AP): Peru and the United States say a new million-dollar anti-cocaine base in the heart of the Peruvian jungle will play a major role in the war on drugs.

The base is located in the centre of the upper Huallaga valley, in the Peruvian Andean region, 242 miles (390 kilometres) northeast of Lima, the capital. It was financed by the United States and designed by a US expert.

The upper Huallaga is believed to be the source of 60 per cent of the world's coca leaf, the source of cocaine.

Peruvian Interior Minister Agustín Mantilla, US Ambassador Anthony Quintano, Colombian Ambassador Enrique Blair, Bolivian Ambassador Adalberto Vidal, Canadian Ambassador Anne Charles and French Ambassador Jean-François Nougarede attended a ceremony Friday that formally opened the base. The United States invested \$1.5 million in the project and Peru provided labour.

One hundred Peruvian anti-drug policemen and ten US drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents had been operating from the base since last September.

The base shows Peru's decision to "fight against and smash with the force of the law and the arms" cocaine trafficking Mantilla said.

He noted that "there is another great problem here, because of an association between terrorism and drug trafficking gangs."

Mao-inspired Shining Path rebels have operated in the region since 1983, offering protection to drug gangs.

Quintano said that the base is an important step in finding a joint solution to the drug problem.

"It is going to take time, but it is not too late. This is not a lost war," he said.

"This motion was made in absolute good faith with knowledge of specific documents and other evidence which will assist the defence not only in its pre-trial detention hearing but in preparation of other motions and defences in this matter," Attorney Steven Kollin said Saturday.

Noriega, awaiting trial in Miami on federal drug-trafficking charges, is scheduled to appear in court for a pre-trial detention hearing Friday.

Kollin stated in a court motion that some of the documents in question reveal that the former strongman tried to slow down trafficking into the United States.

Reasonable

Asked if Noriega told lawyers about the existence of the documents, Kollin said: "The information came as a result of our work investigating this case, and it would be reasonable to assume that our client is aware of what was in those locales."

According to Kollin's motion, assistant US attorney Myles Malman travelled to Panama last week to review property of Noriega's seized by US officials.

Noriega's regime was toppled after US forces invaded the Central American nation Dec 20 and launched a nationwide manhunt for the dictator. Noriega took refuge in the Vatican embassy before surrendering to US officials on Jan 3.

Evidence

The motion was the first formal attempt by defence attorneys to protect possessions of Noriega that may aid in his defence.

Turnoff gave assistant US attorney Michael P. Sullivan until Thursday to produce an inventory from Noriega's home in Panama City and a beach house on the Pacific coast.

The magistrate gave the government several additional days to conduct an inventory of items found at the offices of Noriega's Panama defence forces.

Kollin said he had no evidence that any papers had been destroyed.

"I am not coming here stating in any way that the US attorney's office had done anything improper. This was a precautionary motion," Kollin said.

"We were concerned of course because of the unusual nature of this case," he added. "The government in court agreed that it was a very special sort of situation."

Sullivan said the government intends to co-operate and asked that Kollin provide the names and addresses of the buildings where the property was located.

Casualty

The US army says "disciplined fire" kept civilian deaths to a minimum during its invasion, but Panama's medical examiner said at least 202 civilians died and others put the total much higher.

Some church groups estimate the number at up to 1,000 dead and former US attorney-general Ramsey Clark suggested it could run as high as 7,000. But there was little evidence for the higher figures.

"We have no evidence to say there are thousands, but we know they are not two hundred," said Carmen Miro, a university professor and member of a church organisation.

"We have asked our people throughout the country to make a survey. We think it is closer to 1,000 civilian and military, but nobody knows," said Mario Rognoni, a leader of the political opposition to the new government of President Guillermo Endara.

Twenty-three US troops and three American civilians died in the invasion along with 314 members of the Panama defence forces, according to an official US military count.



Gotti listens to opening remarks Jan 20 during his trial (Reuters wirephoto)

Mafia boss Gotti a bully

NEW YORK, Jan 21, (UPI): Reputed mafia boss John Gotti is a "bully" who ordered the shooting of a union leader to avenge the trashing of a mob-linked restaurant because "he couldn't allow a challenge to go unopposed," a prosecutor charged yesterday.

The remarks in state supreme court in Manhattan marked the beginning of the assault and conspiracy trial for Gotti, who prosecutors claim is "the head of the Gambino crime family," America's largest and most powerful underworld organisation.

"They rule by terror and intimidation," assistant district attorney Michael Cherkasky told the seven-woman, five-man jury.

He pointed at Gotti, who calmly gazed ahead from the defence table, wearing a black pin-striped double-breasted suit, red and black patterned tie and diamond pinky ring.

"He controls the Gambinos with an iron fist," said Cherkasky in his opening statement in the packed courtroom.

Gotti, 49, is charged with ordering the May 1986 shooting and wounding of John O'Connor, a carpenter union official.

His co-defendant, Anthony "Tony Lee" Guerrieri, 60, a reputed Gambino soldier, is accused of helping plan the hit, which was carried out by the Westies, a murderous Irish gang from the Hell's Kitchen area of New York City anxious to curry favour with the Gambinos.

The shooting came about four months after a union goon squad vandalised a Gambino-linked restaurant to protest the use of non-union labour.

"Like any bully, he couldn't allow a challenge to go unopposed," said the soft-spoken, Lanky Cherkasky.

Key evidence in the government's case are tapes of secretly recorded conversations at Gotti's alleged headquarters, the Bergin Hunt and Fish Club.

'A rally of hate'

ATLANTA, Jan 21, (AP): Four white supremacists demonstrated near the gravesite of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday, as more than 2,500 police and national guard troops kept counter-demonstrators at a distance.

The Mississippi-based leader of the Nationalist Movement, Richard Barrett, was accompanied by three supporters as he read statements reviling King at the King National Historic site, across the street from the civil rights leader's tomb.

"That grave is not a throne. That corpse is not a king. We are here to bury a tyrant," Barrett said. His group left with a police escort less than an hour later, to jeers from about 75 mostly young and racially mixed counter-demonstrators who gathered in fog and drizzle.

Plans for what President George Bush denounced Friday as "a rally of hate" caused the adjacent Martin Luther King Jr. Centre for Nonviolent Social Change to close for the day.

US ambassador to Gambia killed

GREENBURGH, New York, Jan 21, (UPI): Ruth Washington, a former federal magistrate sworn in last month as the US Ambassador to Gambia was killed yesterday in an alcohol-related car accident just a half-mile (800 m) from her home.

Washington's car collided with a vehicle driven by Angela Penness, who suffered multiple injuries in the head-on wreck and was listed in critical condition, said Sgt. Robert Brown.



Chamorro campaigns while sitting in a wheelchair. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chamorro back on campaign trail after surgery

SAN RAFAEL DEL SUR, Nicaragua, Jan 21, (AP): The top opposition presidential candidate returned to the campaign trail yesterday, after knee surgery, promising prosperity and to ban the military draft.

"With your vote, you can say goodbye to the obligatory military service (draft) and to inflation forever," Violeta Barrios de Chamorro told about 3,000 people gathered at the main square and on the steps of a church in this southern Nicaraguan town.

The 60-year-old Chamorro addressed the crowd from the back of a pickup truck while sitting in a wheelchair and wearing a cast on her leg.

Mrs. Chamorro, the candidate of the United National Opposition, or UNO, is the principal challenger to President Daniel Ortega, who is seeking another six-year term as the Sandinista Front candidate in the Feb 25 general elections.

The Sandinistas came to power in 1979 after leading a revolution that ousted authoritarian President Anastasio Somoza. US-backed Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, have been fighting to overthrow the government since the early 1980s. There has been little military action since many of the rebels retreated to base camps in neighbouring Honduras after US military aid was cut off on Feb 3, 1988.

While the Sandinista Front has handed out thousands of campaign items, including T-shirts, cigarette lighters and baseball caps, most of the UNO propaganda is graffiti on city walls.

Clothing, even a T-shirt, is expensive for most Nicaraguans.

Bush's 1st year ups and downs

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): George Bush has reason to smile as he enters the second year of his presidency. His standing in the polls is at phenomenal heights, Manuel Antonio Noriega is in US custody, and communists governments in Eastern Europe are toppling.

"I'm finishing with a bit of a glow," Bush acknowledged at year's end.

Bush's public approval ratings exceeded 70 per cent in some polls — higher than his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, ever achieved.

But as Bush well knows, president before him have enjoyed the glow of favourable circumstances only to suffer the sudden chill of events gone sour. It remains to be seen whether his popularity is as deep as it is broad.

Assessments of Bush's first year in office were predictably glowing from such partisans as White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, who said: "It wasn't an easy year. George Bush just made it seem easy."

But he also earned less partisan praise. Stuart Eizenstat, a domestic policy advisor to former President Jimmy Carter, said Bush got off to "a very rocky start" with surprising difficulties in filling key positions, including a losing battle to get John Tower confirmed as Defence Secretary.

But Bush wound up having a successful first year and left himself in a strong position for 1990, Eizenstat said.

Bush had his share of slip-ups, lost battles and controversies, from the Tower nomination to the continuing furor over his diplomatic overtures to China after the bloody crackdown in June on student demonstrators, but showed he could learn from his mistakes.

Accused by Senate majority leader George Mitchell of "timidity" as major changes swept the Soviet Union and East bloc nations, Bush went to the White House in May with a bold proposal for a troop pullout and conventional arms reductions across Europe. Later, he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at the Malta summit.

Prospects are considered excellent for conclusion of agreements this year on long-range nuclear weapons and on reducing conventional military forces in Europe.

Bush visited Poland and Hungary in July and by year's end had signed an aid package of \$938 million over three years for the new East bloc democracies — and draped a Medal of Freedom around the neck of solidarity's Lech Walesa.

In Panama, the United States missed an opportunity by not coming to the aid of mutineers who sought to overthrow Noriega in early October. But the Pentagon's Dec 20 invasion, the largest US military operation since the Vietnam war, was a textbook operation.

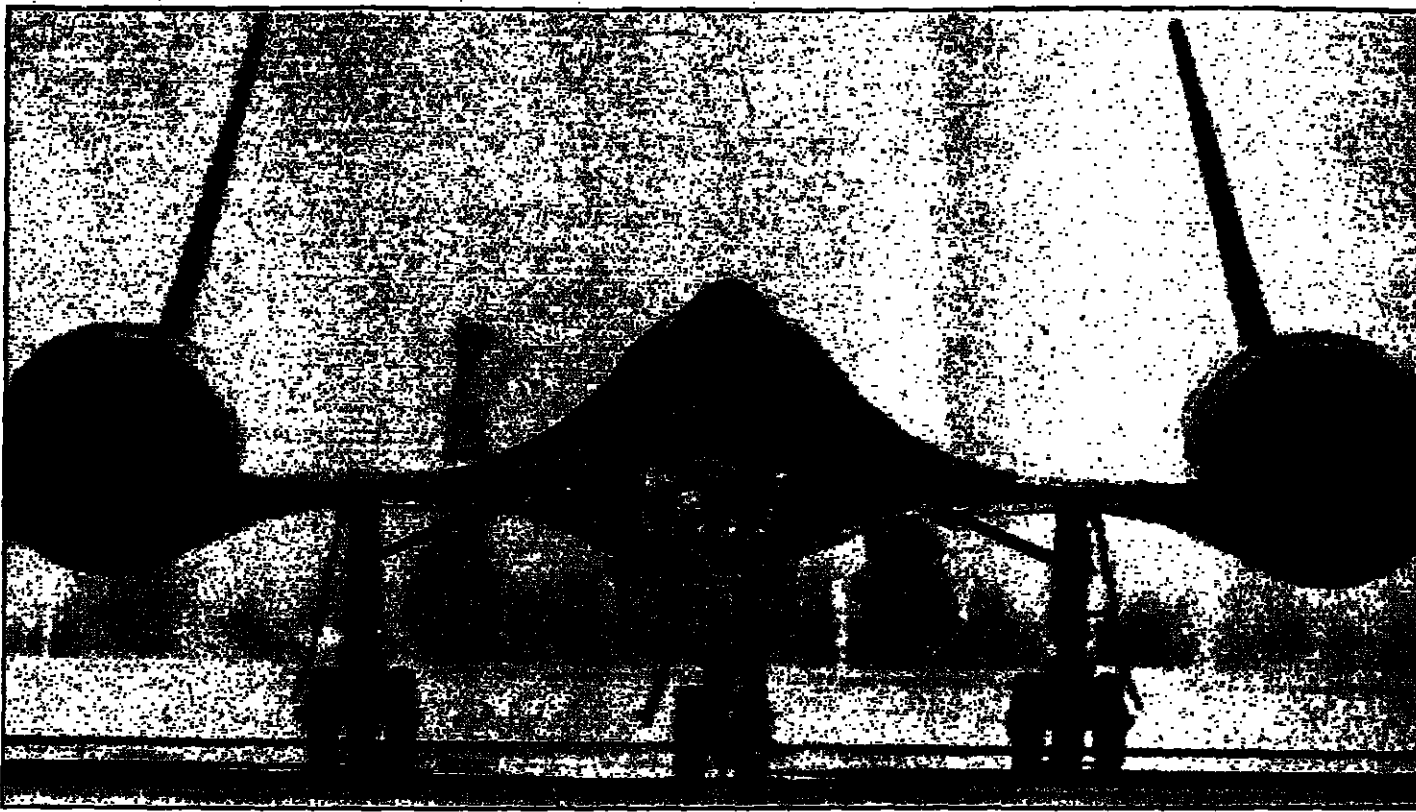
A few weeks earlier, Bush provided a show of airpower to help Philippines President Corason Aquino put down a mutiny and sent special forces to San Salvador when rebels took over a hotel with Americans trapped inside.

He visited 14 countries and the Caribbean island of St Martin in 1989 and is bound for Cartagena, Colombia, next month in a dramatic gesture of support for Colombian President Virgilio Barco and his battle against drug lords.

With Democrats firmly in control of Congress and in a mood to challenge the president, domestic policy may prove far more troublesome for the president than foreign policy.

Bush is seeking to use the goodwill gained in recent months as he campaigns to win congressional support for a domestic agenda topped by his long-standing call for a cut in capital gains taxes.

Democrats in Congress were too distracted to make much of any early Bush mistakes, as both House speaker Jim Wright and majority leader Tony Coelho resigned last spring under ethical clouds.



Kissed goodbye

An American ground crew member kisses the SR-71 'Blackbird' goodbye Jan 18 as it prepared for its final takeoff from RAF Mildenhall. The spy plane flew home to California after being retired following budget cuts and improvements in East-West relations. (Reuter wirephoto)

Haiti declares a state of siege

Opposition leaders rounded up

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Jan 21, (AP): Haiti's military government declared a state of siege last night after the slaying of an army colonel, and police reportedly arrested and beat several opposition leaders.

The government, led by Lt Gen. Prosper Avril, said the 30-day decree was needed "to protect democratic accomplishments against terrorism," but opposition leaders said it was an attempt to silence dissent before promised elections in October.

Government television said four articles of the constitution were suspended under the state of siege, including one provision forbidding the deportation of Haitian nationals.

At least one of the opposition leaders, conservative Hubert de Ronceray, later was reported deported. Max Care, a co-ordinator of De Ronceray's party, said De Ronceray was flown out last night to Miami.

The government said it also re-established an entry visa requirement for Haitians returning from abroad, to prevent the infiltration of terrorist agents.

One opposition leader, Jean-Claude Duvalier, was ousted in 1986, often was used to screen Haitians returning home.

De Ronceray, who has urged Avril to resign, also was a key leader of the opposition to Duvalier, who fled to France in 1986 after months of protest.

Avril, who took power in a September 1988 soldiers' revolt, has promised to hand over power after elections this year, but political and human rights leaders are increasingly sceptical.

A statement read earlier yesterday over the television said the government is taking all steps to prevent "destabilizing manoeuvres liable to compromise the democratic process under way."

One opposition leader, Jean-Claude Bajeux, said in Puerto Rico he expected that all the opposition leaders rounded up on a plane "will be deported."

The United States deplored the actions by the government, saying they "put at risk the democratic transition in Haiti." The State Department urged the Haitian government to rescind his actions and reiterate its commitment to free elections.

Privately owned Radio Antilles said police earlier yesterday arrested De Ronceray and Louis Roy, a well-known civic leader who founded the Haitian Red Cross and is co-author of the 1987 constitution. Roy's nephew, Jean-Claude Roy, confirmed the arrest.

Roy's whereabouts could not be determined last night, but relatives said they believed he was at the airport awaiting deportation.

Eight plainclothes gunmen also arrested socialist leader Serge Gilles and three members of his Progressive National Revolutionary Party at Gilles' home, witnesses said.

Radio Antilles said police also arrested Dr Sylvain Jolibois, leader of the small radical Jean-Jacques Dessalines group; Jesner Prudent, co-ordinator of the centre-right Movement to Establish Democracy in Haiti Party; and several members of De Ronceray's rightist Mobilisation for National Development Party.

Atlantis to carry CIA spy satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Jan 21, (UPI): A secret nighttime launch of the shuttle Atlantis scheduled for late February will carry a 37,300-pound (17,000 kg) super spy satellite for the CIA and the National Security Agency, an aerospace magazine has reported.

Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine said the probe, designated AFP-731, is a "combination" spacecraft incorporating digital imaging reconnaissance cameras and signal receivers "to intercept telephone, radio and secure television transmissions in most populated areas of the Soviet Union."

A NASA spokesman declined comment on the report.

Atlantis is officially scheduled for blastoff around Feb 16, but sources have told United Press International the payload will be delivered to the launch pad a week or so behind schedule and that liftoff has slipped to around Feb 22.

Aviation Week reported a Feb 16 takeoff would have come at 1:21 am if the launch slip is not made up — and that is not likely — the liftoff time likely will change slightly but a nighttime takeoff would still be expected.

In any case, Aviation Week said the satellite will be launched into a 127-mile (205 km) orbit at an inclination to the equator of 62 degrees, the highest ever planned for a shuttle that will give the spacecraft wide coverage of the Soviet Union.

The spy satellite will be launched on the 18th orbit from the shuttle's 60-foot (18 m) payload bay using a new, lightweight launch device called the Shuttle Payload Deployment System, or SPDS, the magazine reported.

The secret flight, to be launched from launch pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Centre, will be the 24th for United States' space shuttle programme and the fifth for Atlantis, which made its debut in October 1985.

The astronauts assigned to the flight are Navy Capt. John Creighton, commander, air force Col. John Casper, co-pilot, Marine Lt. Col. David Hillman, air force Col. Richard Mullane and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Pierre Thuot.

The space shuttle Columbia swooped to a perfect middle-of-the-night landing Saturday after launching one satellite, rescuing another and ending the longest US shuttle flight.

"We're all kind of dragging a little bit, so we're going to pack it in and head for Houston," shuttle commander Dan Brandenstein said during a brief ceremony eight hours after the nearly 11-day mission ended in California's Mojave Desert.

Brandenstein, pilot James Wetherbee and mission specialist Bonnie Dunbar, Marshall's and J. David Low then boarded two jets for a ride home to Johnson Space Centre.

Mayflower Manners: Sydney Biddle Barrows, the so-called "Mayflower Madam" who was arrested for promoting prostitution, is using her expertise to promote good manners in matters of intimacy.

"Mayflower Manners: Etiquette for Consenting Adults," includes advice on how to ask a date about AIDS, whether condoms should be left where they can be seen and when it is OK to make a pass.

The 221-page book, written by Barrows and Ellis Weiner and published by Doubleday in New York, also describes how to approach an escort service. (AP)

Yeager ready to sail: Jeana Yeager, co-pilot of the first non-stop flight around the world, says she is ready to sail beyond the clouds.

Yeager wants to become an astronaut in America's shuttle programme, she said at an annual Amelia Earhart luncheon in Glendale, California Sunday.

"Our space programme needs to move forward," Yeager said. "The shuttle is just a first step."

On Dec 24, 1986, she and pilot Dick Rutan landed the tiny experimental aircraft Voyager at Edwards Air Force Base after a nine-day, 26,000-mile (41,850-kilometre) journey around the world — a record for non-refuelled flight duration. (AP)

Conference on pleasure: Growing need for instant gratification is leading to the decline of American society, consumer activist Ralph Nader says.

Nader, speaking at the University of Rochester's week-long conference on pleasure, said the pursuit of pleasure has put America, which is "wallowing in one bad after another," at a disadvantage with more disciplined Japan.

The Japanese "have turned adversity into an asset," he said Sunday. "We have turned abundance into a liability." (AP)

Navy warns: The navy, reversing its forgoing approach to recruits who test positive for marijuana use, has decided that they will be barred from entering the service.

"You test positive for marijuana use — you're gone," said Vice Adm. J. Michael Boarda, the navy's chief of personnel, in an interview on Friday in Washington.

"It's an important twist" and shows an increasing lack of tolerance for drug use in the military, Boarda said. "We don't want to lose the battle against drugs." (AP)

Cuba calls for changes: Cuba's new UN ambassador has criticised the veto power of the UN Security Council as undemocratic and called for changes to make the United Nations more representative of its membership.

In an interview published on Saturday in Cuba's Communist Party daily Granma, Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon said there was a contradiction between the UN General Assembly, where every nation has a vote, and the Security Council, where a veto can block a resolution.

The United States, Soviet Union, Britain, China and France are the five permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council and each has the power to veto. (Reuter)

Tremors shake Peruvian cities: Two light tremors startled residents of the northern Peruvian province of Piura within a 14-minute period Saturday, but have caused no damages or injuries, the Geophysical National Institute reported.

The first tremor, at 12:44 pm (1644 GMT), registered an intensity of 3 on the Mercalli scale, and the second at 12:58 (1658 GMT), at 4 on the scale, the institute said.

The epicentre was located 93 miles (150 kilometres) southwest of Piura, the port city 330 miles (535 kilometres) north of Lima. The tremors were particularly noticeable in the cities of Sechura and Bayovar. (AP)

Gabon bans gathering: Residents of Libreville, Gabon were asked to remain in their homes Saturday evening and all gatherings were banned after student protests erupted into riots.

Prime Minister Leon M'Baye said President Omar Bongo's government recognised the legitimate complaints of university students and would act on them.

M'Baye said "hoodlums" and other "irresponsible persons" were responsible for widespread vandalism in the capital after students began a boycott of the national university. The students said university professors were incompetent and scholarships too limited. (AP)

Amnesty for convicted coup plotters: The government freed 16 convicted coup plotters a week before Pope John Paul II is to visit, the ruling council of state said in a statement Saturday in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau.

Six others convicted in the same 1985 conspiracy were executed by firing squad in July 1986, despite pleas for clemency from the Pope and other international figures.

Political observers in Guinea-Bissau said the amnesty was decreed so that the small West African nation would have no political prisoners when it received the Pope. (AP)

Purge Salvadoran army: Opposition leaders said Saturday more military officers must have been involved in the slaying of six Jesuit priests than those charged by the government and called for a purge of the armed forces.



Royal fright

Princess Beatrice, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York reacts as she looks up at a snowman in Klosters, Switzerland Jan 21. The Duchess of York and her daughter are expected to return to Britain tomorrow.



Bugs gather

Over one thousand enthusiasts brought their bugs together for National "Beetle Day" in Brasilia Jan 20. Over 3.5 million bugs were produced here in 27 years between 1959 and 1986 making it the top seller in Brazilian history. Only Mexico continues to produce the bug, a car invented by Ferdinand Porsche in Germany and used even by Adolf Hitler. Volkswagen sold over 250,000 cars in 1989 in Brazil. (Reuter wirephoto)

ism in the capital after students began a boycott of the national university. The students said university professors were incompetent and scholarships too limited. (AP)

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Fighter troubled

Frigate project dumped

BRUSSELS, Jan 21, (Reuter): Nato has scrapped an ambitious multinational plan to build a frigate for the 21st century and another project to build a new European fighter in its deep trouble, diplomats and officials say.

National squabbles over the cost, performance and structure of arms co-operation projects and an end of the East-West cold war era are largely to blame.

The long-troubled frigate project foundered after six of the eight participating alliance members pulled out — several of them at the end of last year.

"It's as dead as a dodo and we're quietly closing the project office in Hamburg," said one senior Nato official.

West Germany, Spain and the Netherlands all pulled out at the end of last year as political reforms swept Eastern Europe. Earlier, Britain, France and Italy had withdrawn from the project, which originally envisaged 59 ships for eight of the 16 Nato allies.

The United States and Canada were the only remaining supporters. A spokesman for the Canadian mission at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) headquarters in Brussels said that his country had taken no decision to withdraw.

Some officials suggested that the two North American states might collaborate on building a frigate. "But it is no longer a Nato project," one official said.

The idea for the frigate was first floated in the late 1970s. The first ship was to have been launched in 1998.

Nato can ill afford the serious problems it has experienced with joint armaments programmes amid mounting public and political pressure to cut defence spending.

24,424 seek asylum

Swiss expect more

BERN, Jan 21, (AP): A record 24,424 people sought asylum in Switzerland last year and even more are expected in 1990 because of migrants from developing countries seeking to avoid overcrowded West Germany, a government official has said.

Peter Arbenz, delegate for refugee affairs, said authorities expected at least 32,000 applications for asylum over the next 12 months.

He said the exodus of East Germans and ethnic Germans from other East European countries into West Germany last year was expected to cause more would-be refugees from countries such as Turkey and Sri Lanka to go to Switzerland.

Last year, 9,395 Turks sought asylum in Switzerland, 39 per cent of all applications. Sri Lankans were the second largest group, accounting for 20 per cent of the total, followed by Lebanese with 10 per cent and Yugoslavs with nine per cent, the government figures showed.

Kuwait Oil Company (KSC) / Getty Oil Company

Joint operations (Kuwait Oil Company and Getty Oil Company) announces the tender for the supply of:

Instruments and Accessories

Restricted to the following main vendors:

- 1) Yokogawa Electric Corp.
- 2) Yamatake Honeywell Ltd.
- 3) Foxboro Intercontinental Ltd.
- 4) Honeywell
- 5) Taylor Instruments
- 6) KENT
- 7) Rose Mount

Contractors wishing to participate in this tender, are invited to collect the tender documents from Contracts Administration Office at Joint Operations - Wafra, during the official working hours (from 07.00 am to 04.00 pm) not later than March 6, 1990, against non-refundable fees of KD40/-

US navy quietly starts using ELF communication system

CLAM LAKE, Wisconsin, Jan 21, (AP): A 15-mile (24-kilometre) antenna strung out like a giant cross in the Chequamegon National Forest quietly sends radio messages to missile-guided submarines patrolling deep waters around the world.

The US navy began using the \$400-million ELF system last fall, replacing smaller transmitters that had been sending messages to missile-equipped submarines since the late 1960s.

The earlier project went through despite years of protests based on fears that the low-frequency radio waves would fry fish in nearby streams and produce two-headed squirrels.

"In the last two years, we have had only two protests of any significance. Those folks were strictly anti-military," said Lt. John Smythe, project commander. "I think the biological, ecological and safety issues have all been addressed."

At one point, demonstrations occurred almost weekly at the fenced-in transmitter site in northwestern Wisconsin. Nuclear-weapons opponents argued the system would make the forest a target for Soviet missiles and environmentalists called for more studies.

ELF, or Extremely Low Frequency, is the only system of its kind that sends radio waves

that penetrate water. The system permits submarines to prowl undetected by radar while receiving messages several hundred feet under water.

The antenna — two strands of cable strung on wooden poles — and a transmitter are tucked into the forest atop 20,000 feet (6,000 metres) of buried rock near Clam Lake, a quiet tourist wayide.

Bears frequently climb on the poles and snowmobiles glide through a corridor carved in the trees. Jerry Holter and his wife, Tish, both 60, live

about a mile (1.6 kilometres) from the antenna and have watched the project unfold since 1969.

"They brought in peace activists by the busloads," Holter recalled. "You won't find anybody in the area that ever thought the project would do all the things opponents claimed, including make you sterile if you walked under the lines."

Mrs Holter served as a "human guinea pig" for researchers monitoring the medical effects of the system on nearby residents.

"We're both so darn healthy, it's funny," she said.

Gorby calls to protect environ

MOSCOW, Jan 21. (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has called for an international programme to "save biosphere" from ecological disaster.

Speaking to the global forum on the environment and development for survival, Gorbachev also backed suggestions for the formation of an international relief agency to respond to ecological disasters.

He called it "the green cross," an obvious parallel to the international Red Cross.

The forum brought together 1,000 political and religious leaders from around the world to discuss environmental issues.

Noting his own country's environment suffered from thoughtless decisions, Gorbachev suggested international technical co-operation in preventing and repairing ecological damage.

He said he was prepared to allow inspections on Soviet territory to avoid any suspicion that high technology from other countries was being diverted to other uses.

The Soviet Union has only started to recognise its own horrendous environmental problems in the last several years.

The Soviet environmental movement grew dramatically after the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in 1986.

Gorbachev drew applause from his audience in the Grand Kremlin Palace when he repeated the Soviet Union's long-standing offer to end nuclear weapons testing if the United States agreed to follow suit.

He said the Soviet Union expects to sign an agreement soon providing for the destruction of tonnes of chemical weapons, and he promised that Soviet military manoeuvres would be restructured to reduce environmental damage.

In the speech, which ended the five-day conference in Moscow, Gorbachev called for international environmental monitoring and control.

He suggested the development of international standards to protect areas of particular concern for the entire world, such as rain forests.

Focusing on the Soviet Union, he promised to triple the number of wilderness preserves in the next decade.

He also suggested that an environmental conference planned for Brazil in 1992 be held at "the highest level" to approve a code of ecological ethics.

Pollution has never respected frontiers, but there's something new in the air when a Soviet environmentalist pleads with Americans to help block construction of a dam in a remote Siberian valley.

"The vocal support of environmentalists from around the world is critical to our efforts to save the valley," said Maria Cherkasova, secretary of the Socio-Ecological Union, one of the largest Soviet environmental groups.

She was among the delegates at a meeting last week in Washington of the US-Soviet joint committee on co-operation in the field of environmental protection. She called for a campaign of letters to Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders on behalf of the Katun Valley near the Chinese border.

Organisers of tomorrow's rally said about 1,200 delegates representing 600 work places nationwide would gather to inaugurate the new union, whose total membership would exceed 200,000.

A wave of violent labour protests was blamed in part for the country's economic growth slowing to 6.5 per cent last year, after annual double-digit expansion in 1986-88. Exports also have been hurt by the South Korean won's rise against the US dollar.

Roh warned that if another wave of labour protests broke out this year, the economy would be unable to escape high inflation and low employment.

Authorities outlawed the planned union, accusing its leaders of ideological and anti-government motives. Some union leaders, including chairman Dan Byung-Ho, have gone into hiding to avoid arrest.

Dan, 41, has been sought by police since late last year for involvement in several illegal labour rallies. He said in a published interview today that he would attend the rally. Police said they would arrest him.

Ecological holocaust

Driftnet death toll 100,000 dolphins

WELLINGTON, Jan 21. (Reuters): Asia's driftnet fishing fleets may be slaughtering more than 100,000 dolphins a year in the Pacific, the environmental group Greenpeace has said.

"It's what I would call an ecological holocaust going on," said Mike Hagler from the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II, which is monitoring 20 driftnet boats from Japan and Taiwan in the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand.

Environmentalists have dubbed driftnet fishing the "wall of death" because the fine nets, which hang like deadly curtains for up to 50 km (30 miles) catch virtually all fish, and sea mammals that run into them.

Rainbow Warrior II replaces its namesake sunk in 1985 by French secret agents in Auckland harbour.

"Let's not forget that in the north Pacific, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea have more than 1,000 of these vessels fishing at the height of the season setting something like 50,000 km (30,000 miles) of net a night, enough to go round the Equator one and a quarter times," he said

Silvia Schriver, doctor and deckhand on the Greenpeace ship holds a drowned juvenile dolphin. (Reuters wirephoto)

by radio telephone. "So we're talking about tens of thousands, if not over 100,000 dolphin a year," he said. Japan has promised to halt driftnet fishing by 1992 following protests from environmentalists and Pacific island nations.

Problems with dirty air increasing

Billion still at risk

WASHINGTON, Jan 21. (Reuters): More than a billion people across the globe are still at risk of disease or death from breathing dirty air despite efforts to reduce pollution during the past 20 years, according to a study released yesterday.

The study by the Worldwatch Institute, an environmental research group, said nations cannot solve pollution problems by merely improving technology, but must make basic changes in their transport and manufacturing practices.

The group wants governments to improve air quality by levying steep taxes on car sales and industrial emissions encouraging recycling and public transport and improving international programmes on airborne pollution.

Developed nations should also take advantage of recent moves toward democracy in Eastern Europe to supply those nations, which rely heavily on coal, with technology to sharply reduce sulphur dioxide emissions, it said.

The World Health Organisation has estimated that nearly 635 million people around the world are exposed to high levels of sulphur dioxide, which is linked to respiratory diseases, and more than one billion to unhealthy levels of airborne particulates.

French said recent research has found that air pollution caused every 24th disability and every 17th death in Hungary. In Athens, on days when air quality is particularly bad, the death rate increases six-fold, she said.

Problems with dirty air are increasing most quickly in developing nations where car fleets are growing and heavy manufacturing is rapidly expanding, the report said.

Air pollution, including acid rain, is estimated to rob the US economy of nearly \$40 billion a year through problems such as crop loss and increased health care costs.

Forest damage in West Germany, resulting in part from acid rain, will cost that nation about \$3 billion to \$5 billion a year over the next 70 years.

China rapped on HK law plan

HONG KONG, Jan 21. (UPI): Liberals strongly criticised China today for steamrolling through a Beijing-dominated committee its own version of a legislative system for Hong Kong after 1997, calling the consultation process "a farce."

The committee, controlled by Beijing-appointed drafters, voted in a four-day meeting in Canton to limit the number of directly elected seats in Hong Kong's legislature and impose restrictions on who could hold high office after China resumes sovereignty over the British colony in 1997.

China has steadily increased its hardline approach to Hong Kong following mass support in the colony for the pro-democracy movement on the mainland, which was crushed by Beijing in June.

"People in Hong Kong understand that without democracy, protection of human rights and freedom will be very difficult after 1997," Yeung Sam of the joint committee for the promotion of democratic government told reporters. "I think the whole consultation is just a farce to the people of Hong Kong. They fully understand that the Chinese government has the base line and the Chinese government didn't listen to the wishes of the people of Hong Kong."

Thousands of students and liberal activists greeted Hong Kong members of the basic law drafting committee with shouts of "shame" upon their return late yesterday from talks with mainland drafters in the southern Chinese city of Canton.

A political subgroup of the committee stood by an earlier decision to limit to 18 the number of directly elected seats in Hong Kong's 60-member lawmaking legislative council in 1997.

Drafters said they would expand the number of directly elected seats to 30 by 2003.

The moves provoked charges that Beijing had ignored public opinion in Hong Kong and the colony's lawmakers who demanded direct elections for least 20 out of the council's seats by 1991 and a majority by 1997.

"What has happened now has been in the cards for many, many months and certainly increasingly since June 4," legislative councillor Jimmy McGregor said. "We have had people here spelling out to China in the most representative way possible... reasonably democratic models. And we have seen China reject all of them and listen only to those people who for one reason or another proposed models which China can accept."

Drafters also said certain bills put before the legislature must be voted on separately in both elected lawmakers and another group of lawmakers representing what are called functional constituencies, mostly based on occupations or professions.

The bill would have to gain a majority from both groups before becoming law — a system that could nullify proposed laws unfavourable to Beijing.



A young Mongolian, hoisted on the shoulders of his friends, waves the Mongolian flag during the rally. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Mongolian flag flutters over the thousands of protesters. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thousands flock to Ulan Bator Mongolians defy ban on rallies

ULAN BATOR, Jan 21. (Reuters): About 7,000 Mongolians defied a government ban on demonstrations and flocked to Ulan Bator's main square today to demand democracy after 69 years of communism.

The leader of the movement, university lecturer Panjasuren Zorig, later told a press conference his opposition group wanted a multi-party system, an independent economy and the truth told about Mongolia's blood-stained communist history.

But it was the first action in direct defiance on the government which banned demonstrations in parts of the capital last Thursday. Zorig called the ban unconstitutional.

"You have come here on your own, not because you were forced but because you wanted to change," Zorig told the crowd.

The Mongolian Democratic Union he heads was formed in early December. It says it has 60,000 members — just 30,000 fewer than the ruling Communist People's Revolutionary Party.

The union has been recognised by the government provided it obeys the constitution. Its leaders have held meetings with communist party officials but not the ruling politburo.

Western diplomats in Ulan Bator said the demonstrations posed the biggest challenge for years to Mongolia's communist rulers. Government officials were not immediately available to comment on the protest.

At a press conference for foreign and local journalists after the rally, Zorig, bespectacled and dressed in a Western suit, did not rule out the use of violence.

"The further improvement will show what ways and means should be applied," he said when asked if non-peaceful methods could be counteracted.

Security forces kept a low profile at today's demonstrations but some police and army officers filmed people in the crowd.

"Most of the police are on the side of the demonstrators," said one officer through an interpreter at the rally.

Mongolia is the latest country to feel the winds of change that have transformed the communist world in Eastern Europe.

A vast but remote nation of just over two million people between China and the Soviet Union, it is the oldest communist state after the Soviet Union and remains a close ally of Moscow.

It was the fourth time protesters had swarmed into Sukhbaatar Square since early December.

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Democracy challenged

Mayor shooting shocks Japan

NAGASAKI, Jan 21. (AP): The shooting of Nagasaki's popular mayor by a right-wing extremist is being fearfully viewed as a challenge to Japan's democracy.

The gentle, soft-spoken Hitooshi Motoshima, who as mayor of a city devastated by an atomic bomb during World War II is known as a champion of peace, was seriously wounded Thursday morning after he stepped out of City Hall. Motoshima had said publicly that he believed the late emperor Hirohito could have saved Nagasaki from the bombing.

Police arrested a 40-year-old ultrarightist and self-confessed terrorist who said he was enraged over the mayor's remarks about the emperor.

The assailant used a handgun, which is illegal in Japan. Attacks on prominent politicians are rare in this country.

Following the shooting, Nagasaki residents rallied under banners such as "Bullets cannot kill democracy" and "The people will unite to preserve free speech."

"It goes without saying that freedom to express varying opinions is a pillar of democracy, and respect for minority opinions is a democratic principle," the local newspaper Nagasaki Shimbun said in an editorial.

The attempted assassination "is a challenge to the democracy Japan has steadfastly maintained in the more than 40 years



Motoshima. (Reuters wirephoto)

since the end of the war... but it seems democracy in Japan is still far from matured."

"It's a real shock. In Japan it's so rare for anyone to have a gun — just police and gangsters," said City Hall employee Mikako Umehara. "For this to happen right in front of our eyes is, I think, a much bigger shock than for Americans or Europeans."

The outrage was no doubt intensified by published photographs of the 67-year-old Motoshima coughing up blood as he waited for an ambulance. A bullet had hit him in the back and exited from his chest.

Doctors said Saturday that Motoshima was recovering well

and was expected to be released in a month.

Motoshima said at a city assembly meeting in December 1988, as Hirohito lay on his deathbed, that he felt the emperor bore some responsibility for World War II and that the monarch could have prevented the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The mayor's comments touched the rightist fringe's most sensitive nerve.

Motoshima received numerous threats, including three anonymous letters containing bullets. Rightists converged on City Hall shouting "death to Motoshima."

Police details of up to 80 officers provided security when the mayor moved about, and three bodyguards accompanied him when he travelled to Tokyo for Hirohito's funeral last February. The emperor died Jan 7, 1989.

Police protection was suspended at Motoshima's request in mid-December. Another rightist was arrested last year for sending the bullets to the mayor, perhaps prompting police to drop their guard in the belief the threat was contained.

"We all wonder why this happened," said city spokesman Yoshimori Nakajima. "It was only 13 words the mayor said, but 13 words that reverberated throughout Japan — maybe now the world."

The next peace talks on Cambodia could be held in Indonesia by Feb 20, French Prime Minister Michel Rocard said yesterday.

Japan to send satellite to moon

TOKYO, Jan 21. (AP): In a launch scheduled for Tuesday, Japan hopes to join an elite club by becoming the third nation to send a spacecraft to the moon.

If successful, the Muses-A will be the first spacecraft to visit the moon since the Soviet Union landed the unmanned vehicle Luna 24 on its surface in 1976. The United States is the only other nation that has sent spacecraft to earth's closest neighbour.

Japan has advanced rapidly in aerospace in recent years. Although it was noted for its aviation technology during World War II, the industry was banned by US occupation forces. As a result, Japan entered the aerospace field late.

Officials of Japan's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science said the launch will help develop technology needed for exploration of other planets, including precise control of orbits and high-efficiency data transmission from distant satellites to earth.

The Japanese rocket, an M3S-2 made by Nissan Motor Co., will be carrying two satellites — a larger mother satellite that is to orbit the earth and a smaller moon orbiter.

If the launch proceeds as scheduled Tuesday from the Kagoshima Space Centre in southern Japan, the Muses-A spacecraft will be sent into a highly elliptical orbit that will bring it about 18,000 kilometres (10,000 miles) from the moon in its first swing-by on March 18.

The craft is to release the smaller satellite just before crossing the moon's orbit. A "kick motor" aboard the smaller craft will propel it into a lunar orbit, the institute says.

Because the moon orbiter carries no batteries, it will follow a path that will keep it constantly in sunlight during the first 30 days to allow it to use solar power to send to the mother satellite data on temperatures and electric fields, ISAS says.

The larger satellite will continue circling earth, swinging by the moon and collecting data on space dust and other phenomena.

مكتبة الاسكندرية

سلاسل

INTERNATIONAL

Heads roll in East Germany

EAST BERLIN, Jan 21. (Agencies) East Germany's Communist Party purged its ranks of former leader Egon Krenz and 13 other discredited Politburo members today but resisted pressure to disband.

After a marathon session, the party's disciplinary committee said that Krenz, who led the country and party for six weeks after succeeding his Stalinist mentor Erich Honecker, had been expelled with 13 other former Politburo members.

Only hours after the SED-PDS party ended its meeting, East Germany's turbulent political scene was rocked again when the prosecutor-general announced Finance Minister Uta Nickel was under investigation for ordering unspecified illegal payments.

News of the probe against Nickel—a 48-year-old reformist communist and key cabinet minister—added a new burden to the fragile administration of communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow which took office last November as an untainted team that would lead the country to elections next May.

Biggest

The purge of the former leadership was the biggest carried out against the old guard of a party which has seen over half of its 2.3 million members quit in the past year.

Those ditched included Guenter Schabowski, long regarded as holding reformist views, and defence minister Heinz Kessler. Only three of Honecker's 26-strong Politburo team, which ruled supreme for two decades, still remain in the party. Many are awaiting trial, some in custody.

Earlier SED-PDS party chairman Gregor Gysi said the party had failed to exercise itself of its Stalinist past in the five weeks he had been in charge. It was aware, he said, that many members and ordinary East Germans wanted to see it disappear.

But he added: "After long, mature and sometimes controversial debate, the party's ruling council decided that disbanding... would lead to greater social tension, not less."

Charges

"The disappearance of our party would be a betrayal of the democratic aspirations of the spiritual and political forces in this country," Gysi said.

In an interview with the Bild newspaper of Hamburg after his expulsion from the party, Krenz was quoted as saying he may one day consider joining the opposition Social Democrats, but added it was out of the question for now.

Meanwhile, authorities imprisoned former parliament Speaker Horst Sinnermann on corruption charges, the official news agency ADN said.

Sinnermann was charged with "criminal fraudulent conversion and breach of trust," the standard language in the corruption and abuse of office investigations that are sweeping East Germany. He was being held pending trial.

Opposition

East Germany's fledgling opposition groups are moving into drab quarters in East Berlin after battling for office space but many are armed with little more than a typewriter to prepare for elections in May.

Fourteen organisations began setting up shop this week in a central building vacated by the Communist Party and are now slowly learning the art of politics that was denied them during 40 years of one-party rule.

Hot-air ballooning, banned for four decades by headline communist rulers who feared balloons would be used as a means of escape, has lifted off as a sport in the new reformist East Germany.

The official ADN news agency said enthusiasts founded the country's first hot-air ballooning club on Friday. The Mecklenburg and Brandenburg club would stage its first flight during the Easter holidays, ADN said.

Accident

Out of work and with bleak prospects for being thrown a bone back home, the first batch of East German guard dogs arrived in West Germany yesterday.

East Germany is giving West Germany about 2,500 of the some 6,500 guard dogs that once patrolled the Berlin Wall and the border, said the animal protection agency in Bremen.

East Germany averted a major nuclear power accident in 1976 that could have been as devastating as the one at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union, a West German magazine said today.

East German officials did not disclose the potential seriousness of the incident, Der Spiegel said.



Dead bodies lying side by side in Baku hospital Jan 20. (Reuter wirephoto)

USSR a boiling pot

Kremlin wrong to send troops: Yeltsin

Gorby may 'fall soon'

MOSCOW, Jan 21. (AP) From central Asia to the Caucasus and the Baltics, ancient ethnic grievances in the ring of security the Kremlin took centuries to gather around itself have come back to infect the country with nationalism.

Ancient grudges among neighbours that simmered quietly under the Soviet facade of brotherhood and outright demands for independence could spell the disintegration of Moscow's vast empire, leaving Russia itself standing virtually alone.

The breeding grounds are southern deserts, the Caucasus mountains, the fields and forests of Moldavia, the fertile soil of the Ukraine and the seaside Baltics. They host a patchwork of many of the Soviet Union's more than 100 nationalities with bloody histories sandwiched between mighty empires.

Gorbachev, now forced to deal with Armenians and Azerbaijanis equipped with automatic weapons, surface-to-surface missiles and helicopters, told Soviets he was struggling with a legacy of ethnic hatred.

"The problems, which have been accumulating for tens, no, for hundreds of years, have erupted and acquired the character we are now confronted with in the Baltics, Moldavia and now in such forms this inter-ethnic strife are going on in Transcaucasia, in Azerbaijan and Armenia," he said yesterday.

In Lithuania less than a week earlier, where he was trying to rein in a peaceful but determined secessionist movement, the Soviet leader openly worried that demands for independence could lead to "the union's disintegration of ethnic grounds."

Gorbachev's openness policy and democratic reforms have let the genie out of the bottle, in many cases with violent consequences. Formerly underground and long-repressed groups pressing for secession in Georgia, Armenia, Moldavia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are out in the open.

The Soviet leader says he is not to blame if what was hidden is now revealed. But he adds his



Yeltsin returns a ball during a tennis match with Japanese Construction Minister Shozo Harada at Tokyo hotel. (Reuter wirephoto)

goal is to prevent the conflict from getting worse.

Long before Gorbachev, the Czars pushed south into Central Asia and the Caucasus and west into the Baltics and Moldavia in the 18th and 19th centuries. They brought under their control lands bordering other major empires that frequently threatened invasion.

With arrests, deportations, pogroms, discrimination or outright murder, Soviet rulers and the Russian Czars before them did little to make the local populations trust their masters in Moscow.

Alexander III introduced Russification, angering non-Russian peoples. His son Nicolas II, the last Czar, continued this

approach.

Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin called the Russian empire a "prison of nations." In 1917, the year of the revolution, peasants upset by the postwar economic collapse struck out at Russian settlers.

In the early years of Soviet power under Lenin, nationalist ferment was high in Byelorussia, the Ukraine, central Asia, Transcaucasia and the Baltics, the same areas where troubles abound now.

Many states, like the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, took Lenin's policy of national self-determination to heart and declared their independence. But one by one, Stalin brought them back under

TOKYO, Jan 21. (Reuters) The Kremlin was wrong to send troops to put down a virtual civil war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, maverick Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin has said.

He also predicted that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could soon fall from power. "It is a mistake to dispatch troops and suppress ethnic problems by armed forces," he told Akira Yamagishi, president of Rengo, Japan's largest labour organisation, according to the financial daily, Nihonkeizai Shimbun.

"Perestroika at present is going round and getting nowhere. Its future prospect is dark unless President Gorbachev joins forces with us. It (Gorbachev's regime) might collapse within several months," Sunday's Nihonkeizai quoted Yeltsin as saying.

Yeltsin, who arrived for 11-day visit on Jan 13, said in an interview with the Mainichi Daily News that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had a much more austere lifestyle than Gorbachev who, as the leader of a socialist country, should have a standard of living closer to that of the masses.

"For example, when Thatcher visits a foreign country she rides in the same plane that ordinary citizens use, but Gorbachev can't do that," he was quoted as saying.

"While Thatcher rides in a car with two other people, Gorbachev uses a procession of four luxury cars plus an escort," he added.

"Thatcher orders food herself and pays for it herself. In our country, the KGB delivers food to the leaders free of charge," he was quoted as saying.

Kremlin control.

Stalin, a Georgian, also pursued Russification. In Moldavia, taken back from Romania in 1940, the language was converted from Latin to Cyrillic letters.

Armenians and Georgians, two Christian ethnic groups in the Caucasus that in the 19th and early 20th centuries sought protection of the Russian Czar against the Ottoman empire, now are among those fighting most vigorously for independence.

After Gorbachev took power, Crimean Tatars and Armenians led the way for other nationalities in voicing their long pent-up grievances. The Crimean Tatars demanded to resettle in the Crimean peninsula.

EEC backs Baku action

DUBLIN, Jan 21. (Agencies) European Economic Community foreign ministers, anxious to shore up Eastern Europe's reformers, have sent a signal of support to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev despite the bloodshed in Azerbaijan.

At informal talks over dinner last night in Dublin, the 12 ministers specifically endorsed Gorbachev's proposal for a 35-nation East-West summit this year to chart the future of a radically-altered Europe.

And while regretting the violence, they tacitly approved Gorbachev's decision to send in troops and tanks to crush a nationalist uprising in Azerbaijan and prevent civil war with neighbouring Armenia.

"We have complete understanding for the enormous dilemmas. We just hope that the military intervention is in proportion to the problem," Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek told reporters after the meeting.

The ministers agreed a \$70-million emergency package of food and medical aid for Romania and Poland. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, just back from Bucharest, said food stocks there would last for only three weeks and the situation was "explosive and relatively unstable."

But the more sensitive issue of how much long-term help the EEC will give to the six emerging democracies of eastern Europe has yet to be tackled.

And sharp differences over whether East Germany deserved to be treated as a special case for early entry to the community because of its ties to West Germany.

The reaction to events in Azerbaijan contrasts starkly with the West's condemnation of Gorbachev's predecessors for using the Soviet army to reassert Moscow's control over Hungary and Czechoslovakia or extend it to Afghanistan.

Boosting Gorbachev's position is now paramount for the community — it was his decision to renounce the use of force which allowed Eastern European states to start dumping old-style communist rule.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said most people were prepared to accept the use of force to prevent more violence in the southern Soviet republics.

"There's a clear distinction between military action taken to prevent one group of citizens in a country killing another group and military action taken to suppress a people struggling for its freedom," he said.

And Ireland's Gerry Collins, who chaired the talks, voiced general support for Gorbachev's reforms on behalf of the 12.

"The USSR has embarked on a large-scale programme of restructuring of its economy and its politics. We support the efforts of Mr Gorbachev to transform his country in these directions," he said.

The ministers agreed that senior officials should start work immediately on an agenda and a common EEC position for a summit this year of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). Such a meeting, sought by Gorbachev to force a new European order, had not been due until 1992.

The CSCE, which includes the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union and all European states except Albania, was the forum used by the West to press the case for greater freedom and respect for human rights in the Soviet bloc.

Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, the community's executive body, withdrew a suggestion he made on Wednesday that the EEC increase its budget henceforth by \$1.65 billion to give the six East Bloc countries rejecting communist rule the same help now extended to the most economically backward regions within EEC nations.

Delors reiterated his controversial support for West German demands that East Germany should be considered as a "special case" for links with the community, including possible membership.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Search for girls

S. African police searching for the six missing white schoolgirls, dig up the garden Jan 17 of the couple accused of molesting a 16-year-old girl. The girl escaped and the couple committed suicide when police cornered them after a chase. (Reuter wirephoto)

US Top 20 on Soviet radio

A Top 20 radio show will soon carry Miki Vanilli and Madonna to Moscow, Tone Loc and Tiffany to Tashkent and Phil Collins and Fine Young Cannibals to Kiev.

Soviet rock fans will be able to hear those and other pop stars on "USA Top 20," which will make its debut on Soviet government-owned Gosteleradio Feb 9 and air twice a month, according to Westwood One, the Culver City-based company producing the show.

Host of the 90-minute show will be Stuart Detmer, 26, a Chicago native who speaks fluent Russian. Westwood One chairman Norman J. Pattuz said. The show will be produced in Los Angeles. Foreign companies will be able to buy advertising time.

Westwood One also will produce two other music programmes, "America on Record" and "American Musical Classics," for broadcast in the Soviet Union. (AP)

Princess Anne's view on children

Princess Anne, daughter of a reigning monarch, says she wishes her children had better role models.

"I look around and wonder what sort of examples they have to look up to now," the daughter of Queen Elizabeth II told a BBC radio interviewer. "That worries me. I don't think there are very many... I think their elder generation is to blame for that."

Anne, 39, who separated from her husband, Capt Mark Phillips, in August, said she is not very strict with her 12-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter.

"I don't go along with the 'seen and not heard.' It would be very nice but I think it's rather an impractical suggestion really," said the princess. She said her travels on behalf of the Save the Children's Fund, of which she is president, have made her more concerned about what she sees at home. (AP)

Children enjoy Antarctica trip

Famed undersea explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau says the six children he took along on his recent mission to Antarctica enjoyed the trip very much.

During one jam-packed day when the group went to see colonies of penguins, seals and other creatures from the ice continent and stopped at a Polish research station on the way back to their ship, Cousteau said.

Cousteau left Jan 3 from Chile for Antarctica with one child from each of the six other continents. They returned to Chile last Sunday. The children were aged 11 and 12. (AP)

Baker to visit Czechoslovakia

In a show of support for an emerging democracy, US Secretary of State James Baker will visit Czechoslovakia next month after he holds talks in Moscow on easing East-West tensions.

East officials say Baker may add other eastern and central European stops to his schedule, as President George Bush's administration steps up its campaign of trying to encourage Warsaw Pact countries to adopt Western political and economic systems.

Czechoslovakia is making that transition with little indication of tension. It flirted with reform in 1968 and then experienced two decades of hardline rule after the "Prague Spring" was crushed by Soviet troops and tanks. (AP)

Bulgarian opposition to publish newspaper

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) will publish its own newspaper, the first independent daily in communist Bulgaria, the Communist Party daily Rabotnichesko Delo reported Saturday.

The date of its first issue was not disclosed. Official permission to publish the paper and office space were among several UDF conditions for sitting down with the communist leadership to discuss political and economic reforms. Free elections were expected in Bulgaria later this year.

The talks, which are to resume Monday, were suspended last week after the government refused to promise the opposition access to the state-run radio and television networks. (AP)

Pope to visit Czechoslovakia

Pope John Paul II will make an unprecedented trip to Czechoslovakia before June elections there, paying tribute to the country's fledgling democracy, the Vatican said on Saturday.

It will be the first visit by a pontiff to Czechoslovakia and the Pope's first trip to a Warsaw Pact country outside his native Poland, which he has visited three times.

Prague's new non-communist government has initiated dramatic improvements in Czechoslovakia's church-state relations, which for decades were among the worst in the East bloc. It said on Thursday it wanted to restore diplomatic ties with the Vatican, broken after the communist takeover in 1948. (Reuter)

ANC toning down guerrilla campaign

Shift to political moves

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 21. (AP) Senior police commanders, in an unusually optimistic appraisal, said today that the outlawed African National Congress is shifting its emphasis away from military action toward political alternatives.

Police Commissioner Johan van der Merwe said the police force will have to operate "with particular understanding and circumspection and even sympathy during the last decade of the century."

The number of guerrilla attacks, particularly on civilian targets, has decreased significantly in the past year, Van der Merwe and a fellow police general said at a briefing for South African journalists.

Van der Merwe said the trend was likely to continue because of increasing international pressure on the ANC to seek political rather than military solutions.

Van der Merwe said the ANC did not want to incur international criticism for killing civilians.

Van der Merwe said the decline in ANC attacks was linked to the increasing pace of political reform since F.W. de Klerk became president in August. De Klerk has freed several jailed ANC leaders, eased restrictions on anti-government protests, and proposed negotiations to draft a constitution that would extend some form of political rights to blacks.

Lt. Gen. Basie Smit, chief of the security police force that has borne the brunt of anti-ANC operations, said "terrorist" attacks had declined from 281 in 1988 to 199 last year. Most, but not all, such attacks are blamed by police on the ANC, which has waged a bombing and sabotage campaign against apartheid since 1961.

Former hit squad man joins ANC

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 21. (AP) A white former police captain who claimed he led a South African "hit squad" against anti-apartheid activists may have joined the African National Congress after fleeing abroad, a newspaper reported today.

The Sunday Star of Johannesburg said Dirk Coetzee has held talks with several ANC officials since he left South Africa in November and provided them with information about the activities of alleged police death squads.

The newspaper said there had been no official

confirmation from ANC officials that Coetzee had joined the outlawed guerrilla movement, but "speculation is growing that he has in fact done so."

It was the case, the Star said, Coetzee would be the first white from the police force to have joined the predominantly black ANC. The organisation has waged a bombing and sabotage campaign since 1961 aimed at undermining the white-controlled government.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Coetzee, whose whereabouts are not known.

Kuwaiti press highlights Amiri address

Belief in democracy expressed

KUWAIT, Jan 21, (Kuna): Kuwaiti press today gave prominence to the address by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah on current domestic and foreign issues, praising his wisdom and far-sightedness.

The Kuwaiti papers highly appreciated the Amir's call for opening channels of dialogue to settle national issues in a civilised style.

"The Amir's call for dialogue as we step on the threshold of a new century and a different stage at the international level meets the aspirations of the Kuwaiti society because His Highness had sincerely expressed his adherence to the basic principles of the community of dialogue, cohesion and wisdom on the basis of our holy religion," wrote an Arabic daily in a front-page editorial.

The paper expressed support to HH's call for dialogue, saying its continuation through the available channels would lead to common content in a civilised manner through mutual respect and understanding.

In his nation-wide address yesterday, the Amir renewed his personal support for broadening the base of consultation, parliamentary life and people's participation in the country's affairs.

The address, marking the last decade in the 20th century, the Amir of Kuwait noted that the swift pace of the present historic stage demands wisdom rather than rashness, co-operation rather than confrontation and joining hands rather than defiance.

Values

"Like our leaders, we also believe in the value of freedom and democracy and peoples participation. If the stumbles in the past had necessitated a period of contemplation, those principles are deep-rooted in our community and through dialogue we will be on the right track that will take us to the future," the daily said.

Al-Seyassah said the Amir's address had put an end to gossiping and expressed the state's belief in democracy and peoples participation, indicating that most important is "how to implement what we agreed upon."

Another Arabic daily called for halting weekly political rallies to show good intentions for dialogue.

"Those who call for a decision prior to dialogue have to refrain from what will only lead to dispute and will never realise the aspirations of the sincere people of this

country characterised in unity, territorial integrity and prosperity," the daily said.

Another paper, stressed that the absence of objective dialogue could hamper the country's march toward progress "and promulgate division and conflict among us."

Taking into consideration the difference in views between the state and the people, the paper emphasised the need for dialogue to reconcile opinions to come out with a joint formula that will serve as a national charter acceptable to all.

"Fulfilling this need we can avert penetration attempts and conspiracies against our country," it said.

Noting that Kuwait is not isolated from the rest of the world, yet another Arabic daily appealed to the Kuwaiti people to enter the 21st century hand-in-hand to deny the enemies of Kuwait the opportunity to stir up sectarianism.

An English-language daily said HH the Amir by renewing his personal support to broadening the base of consultation, parliamentary life and people's participation in the country's affairs, is inviting the people to seriously contemplate the possibility of sharing greater responsibility.

The paper noted that the Amir has used

metaphors in his address to extend the scope of his packed meanings, explaining that the Amir has successfully evoked a powerful feeling in delivering his intent when he said: "No ship sailing in the sea of international politics can seclude itself, nor can some of its people take independent decisions away from its leadership and destiny, or fail to co-operate among themselves before it reaches its safe destination."

The daily also noted that the Amir sees unity as a kind of insurance for a forward journey in time. "He expects all passengers of the ship to be cruising together talking to one another and with their leadership to reach their destination," it added.

"The Amir has once again noted Kuwait's concern over burning Arab and Islamic issues. He also modestly mentioned his country's role in building unity, goodwill and peace where it was required," the paper said.

It concluded by saying "the Amir's address prompts us to think about the joys of freedom and offers the right pointers to chart the course of our journey in this decade and ahead. The Amir bids us all to fare forward with a collective force of will and determination."

Border guards vigilance deters illegal infiltrators

Shepherds co-operate with security

VIGILANCE and dedication of border guards has deterred the number of attempts by infiltrators to enter the country, the commander of the border guards staff Colonel Ali Sabah Saud Al Sabah said.

He told a local daily that the border guards formed one of the army platoons and shouldered similar important responsibilities which included maintaining territorial sovereignty, chasing infiltrators, apprehending smugglers, guiding lost travellers and giving early warning signal to the army staff headquarters.

He pointed out that border guards platoons personnel were trained to perform tough tasks, endure difficulties, survive through high-risk missions, live with severe weather conditions, perform efficiently in rough places and above all cherish high spirit of patriotism.

He said that the Ministry of Defence paid special attention to its army personnel and regularly provided them with the needed expertise and equipment. These include highly sophisticated infrared night vision systems and radar networks. A new radar system would soon be set up for use to detect infiltrators moves at night locating the precise angle, the commander said.

He added that infiltrators and smugglers have resorted to sophisticated measures and also wait for the right weather conditions in a bid to evade arrest. Guards frequently arrest smugglers attempting to cross the borders through sandstorms, at noon or nights and driving with the lights off, the official said.

He cited a strange incident in which three infiltrators were caught wearing specially-designed shoes which leave a print on the sand of some going in the opposite direction, but our personnel were fully aware of their trick and arrested them in time. He added that some of them would not hesitate to open fire at border guards chasing them and refuse orders to give themselves up.

Infiltrators included women, children and teenagers whose reasons for illegal crossing of the border ranged from being wanted by the law in their country, running from military conscription or wanted to work.

He said that Kuwaiti shepherds had special security passes to go out and graze, which contained personal data and a picture, and also mention of how many sheep or goats they had and cars they used.

He added that shepherds are very co-operative with local security forces and often inform of infiltration attempts, but if they grew suspicious of any of them helping infiltrators he would be punished.

He said the border guards offer first-aid help to campers, people involved in car collisions and victims of snake bites or scorpion stings. However, a large percentage of people do not co-operate and abide by instructions which forbid them to come within five kilometres close to the border installations or camp in restricted areas. On some occasions some wandered into the neighbouring country's territories and were arrested by the security officers in that country and on few occasions they were set free.

Some careless people would hunt close to vital oil installations, and some would drive off at high speed when they catch sight of patrols, risking their own lives and those of the public, Al Sabah said.

Low response to language courses at university

DIRECTOR of the Linguistics Centre at Kuwait University, Dr Ibrahim Al Bassam indicated that students tend to stay away from registering at language courses during the first academic term. This low response has led to lower student scientific levels in foreign languages, the official said.

She expressed hope that the number of Kuwaiti experts at the centres teaching corps will increase pointing out that Kuwaiti staff form 22 per cent of the total teaching staff at the centres.

She said that the centre efforts towards finding communication channels with the local manpower market to be able to figure out its requirements from the required linguistic level.

The centre is currently seeking to formulate a comprehensive plan with regards to co-operation with the Ministry of Education in all languages. This move is designed to remove all problems which students find when joining the University of Kuwait, Bassam said.

With respect to future plans, the centre seeks complete projects on developing curricula in addition to upgrading the language level of students. More efforts will be made by the centre to expand teaching English for speciality purposes in addition to adding a big number of other foreign languages to meet university graduates requirements, Bassam said.

Aids test for service workers in Bahrain

BAHRAIN, Jan 21, (Reuters): Bahrain's barbers, cooks and waiters face compulsory Aids testing in the near future, a health ministry official said today.

Undersecretary Dr Rashid Fulaifil told Reuters doctors would also be empowered to order a blood test of any patient they suspect of having the disease.

Bahrain's health authorities found 60 people with the HIV virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome after testing blood from about 35,000 Bahrainis last year, he said.

"I believe the results are too high and not representative of the population as a whole because we tested high-risk groups such as drug addicts and people suffering from venereal disease," Fulaifil said.

Those tested positive were drug addicts who had shared needles and none had yet become ill from the disease, he added.

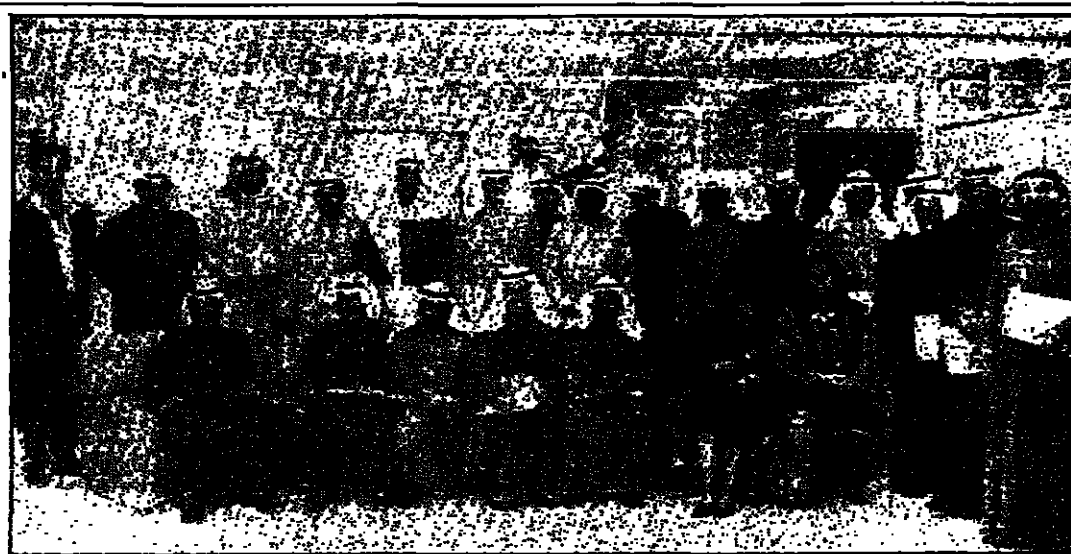
Meanwhile the public health ministry in Kuwait held a special reception at one of the leading hotels in Kuwait to honour participants in Kuwait's second international day on Aids.

The event was under the aegis of acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi. The Aids day, organised last December 1-6 was intended to increase public awareness about the fatal disease, and ways of prevention.

Required Waitresses

For a fancy coffee shop in Abu Halifa preferably Filipino nationals. Attractive salary—must have transferable residence.

Contact Aziz
Tel: 3718648
between 1-5 pm



Administrative course at PAAET

A training course on the Role of Administrative Supervisors was concluded at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. About 20 employees attended the course which is held among the courses offered by PAAET during service. Certificates were distributed to graduates.

Private pharmacies under fire

Residents complain of price manipulation

PRIVATE pharmacies have transformed themselves into commercial shops, with the main aim of achieving rapid profits, which is unethical, according to a number of residents.

They stated that private pharmacies have begun to exploit patients taking advantage of some weaknesses which exist in the current Ministry of Commerce Law.

They said that private pharmacies are supposed to present humane services to the community and added that some doctors who have strong ties with owners of these pharmacies, connive to exploit medical patients. They said that these doctors write prescriptions knowing in advance that these medicines are not available at government pharmacies, necessitating purchasing these from the nearest pharmacy, which more often than not have their vested interests.

They supported the idea of imposing symbolic fees for treatment and the provision of all types of pharmaceutical preparations without the need to go to any of these private pharmacies. They said that step will prevent price manipulation.

They called upon officials to combat this unethical practice and to reconsider the current practices of private pharmacies and also to regulate the workings of the profession by unifying prices at all private pharmacies.

Phenomenon

Ali Al Thalji praised government efforts in providing medicines to patients free of charge adding that on some occasions government pharmacies suffer from acute shortages in some types of pharmaceutical preparations, compelling patients to buy their medicines from private pharmacies.

He said at most times such medicines which are not available at government pharmacies are very expensive to obtain at private pharmacies.

He described existing methods of operations at some pharmacies as a dangerous phenomenon adding that officials at the Ministry of Public Health

should redress this issue in full. He called upon officials at the Ministry of Commerce to unify medicines prices at private pharmacies also to put conditions on pharmacists deserving to enter this line of business.

Hawas Al-Slemari indicated that some infants' milk at private pharmacies are much higher in price than the same brand of milk at co-operative societies. He said that private pharmacies add a big margin of profit on commodities and medicines compared with co-op's.

He stated that the Ministry of Commerce should take a strong and firm stand against unifying prices of medicines and infant milk.

Khaled Mohammed on the other hand said that some private pharmacies alter the form of packaging of specific medicines to increase its price. Often, patients fall for that trick believing that the medicine they just bought is stronger than the usual kind.

He pointed out that in most countries, prices of medicines have been the subject of government standards, unlike to the situation in Kuwait where there are no restrictions on prices. He stated that pharmacists have total freedom to alter prices in order to obtain higher profits.

Meanwhile, a number of pharmacists have stated that residents' accusations are correct and some private pharmacies increase their prices in order to obtain higher profits. They stated that medicine prices at pharmacies located at co-operative societies are supported, adding that profits at these pharmacies don't exceed the 25 per cent limit.

Mohammed Mahmoud stated that it is natural to notice a diversity in medicine prices at private pharmacies due to the fact that there are no laws and standards to unify prices. He added that no one can deny the fact that private pharmacies increase their prices.

Bushra Mna, a pharmacist stated that some private pharmacies add more than 35 per cent profit to medicines adding that such margin is too high for some patients.

Education strategy renewal underway

EDUCATION Minister Anwar Al Nouri said in the course of a lengthy press interview with a local newspaper that the educational strategy was the only means to fulfil the community objectives towards more success and progress in the various fields.

He said that the development of the individual and the building of the pivotal role of the educational strategy in Kuwait, which caters to the larger strategy on national socio-economic development.

He stressed that educational progress has been the major precipitator social of change in Kuwait and would always remain to be so. By virtue of a decision by the Higher Education Council a nation-wide survey had commenced to identify the objectives and policies of the educational system in the country, a task undertaken for the first time in Kuwait.

He added that intensive efforts had been exerted to fully accomplish the tasks shouldered by the Education Ministry in ridding the society of major negative phenomena as represented in the negative attitudes of the younger generation, such as cheating in the exams, or public vandalism, Nouri said.

The deep concern and attention rendered to the educational responsibilities by HH the Amir and senior government officials, a new statute has been instituted whereby top secondary graduates would be ceremonially honoured.

Additionally, a new system was put in operation under which a consistent process of teacher calibration was undertaken to identify the best performance and evaluate their achievements.

Similar steps were taken to optimise the use of the new administrative system.

Planning

Under this system it would be possible to provide a strong and reliable database for educational planning and administration, with the introduction of a special central statistical system, which would facilitate the introduction of modern technologies and provide up-to-date statistical reports to various user-agencies, the official said.

He added that another major effort was exerted to develop and continually upgrade the existing curricula which resulted in the unification of certain subjects, at the GCC level, such as maths, sciences and others.

He said that studies were currently in progress to develop social and psychological services based on careful sizing of behavioural problems among students, such as the increasing number of smokers.

New structure at agriculture authority: Duail

THE Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth will begin a new organisational structure within the coming few days, according to Sheikh Ibrahim Durr Al Sabah, chairman and director-general of the authority.

The official said that the activities have been divided into three main sectors which are: palm trees, botanic sector and the animal production sector. In this relationship, new administrative posts have been created and three deputies for chairman of the authority have been appointed to each of these sectors.

Duail said that as the authority will have a greater role in the agricultural plans during the next development plans — especially the 3rd five-year-plan, the authority is proceeding with a large expansion in the technical and administrative works.

The official said that he appreciates the desires of farmers and specialists to transfer the authority to a ministry of agriculture as in many countries of the area.

KD 500m capital increase for Credit & Savings Bank

THE Council of Ministers has reportedly decided to increase the capital of the Credit and Savings Banks by KD500 million, bringing the total capital amount to KD1500 million, with a view to meeting the requirements of the next five-year housing plan on housing land-plots distribution.

Sources close to the bank told a local daily that the bank had already spent KD1280 millions of its total capital, including reserve and profits, through the implementation of its loan-extending policy to help clients pay the cost of their individual construction projects or buy ready-made houses or others.

The sources said that a decree would shortly be issued on the planned increase, amidst a number of decisions adopted by the bank's board of directors at its last session reconsidering several issues involving bank-client relations, which also covers the operation of the one-time monthly-deduction system and that the deduction amounts not to exceed KD 85 to 100 for clients with limited income.

The decisions also provided

Environment

Laser tech to detect oil spills

SECRETARY of the Kuwait Environmental Protection Council Ibrahim Al Hadi has said that the council funded a study undertaken by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research aimed at developing a laser-based remote sensing technology for use in detecting oil leakage in territorial waters.

The first phase has already been completed and stage two is currently in progress. The first stage included the selection of necessary oil samples for testing purposes, which included 14 different oil samples of purified oil and 12 different samples from crude oil. Another 14 crude oil samples were added to enhance the statistical base for oil groups with the intention of optimising the classification and quality determination process.

Results indicate that due to the admixture of oil groups level of ability to identify the quality of the oil admixture grew uncertain. The laser-based remote sensing technology would enable the identification of the type of oil to a certain admixture, Hadi said.

A plan for the re-operation of the old-policy system under which people who have taken out loans would be given adequate time before the agreed deductions from their salaries were started.

The board of directors also endorsed a decision to drop all charges collected from clients wishing to purchase ready houses from others, which amounted to KD15 and also the sum of KD100 collected from Kuwaiti women intending to purchase ready-houses in the fashion pursued by Kuwaiti families.

A source revealed that the decisions taken by the Bank's board of directors were made in response to government directives, adding that the current number of beneficiaries from the bank's loan services amounted to approximately 25,000 and that the bank was expected to serve double this number of clients over the coming five years in line with the government's new housing policy under which citizens would be encouraged to build on distributed land-plots or expand their existing houses.

Higher education to receive boost

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Higher Education will employ more experts who will be capable of shouldering responsibility, the undersecretary at the ministry Dr Musaad Al Haroun was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, the undersecretary said that the ministry was striving to put the right man in the right place. He disclosed that the ministry had set up the necessary functional description for the different posts.

Speaking of the administrative development at the ministry, the official said that the institutions affiliated to the ministry were reviewing its organisational structure in order to keep abreast with the relevant developments and changes. He clarified that Kuwait University and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) had formed the necessary committees for reviewing and studying the current organisational structure in addition to the setting up of the necessary conceptions aimed at developing the administrative apparatuses.

Haroun said that the university was striving to allow students to acquire the necessary scientific skills in order to enable them to play their role in the community's development and to preserve Arab and Islamic values.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THREE may keep a secret, if two of them are dead — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

Very much in control Military ushers Sudan into '90s

KHARTOUM, (Reuter): Sudan's military government is vigorously enforcing its authority as the new decade opens. "The revolution will destroy anyone who stands in its way...and amputate those who betray the nation," says military strongman General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

Bashir's 15-man junta seized power from an elected civilian government in a June 1989 coup and assumed authority over almost every aspect of life in Sudan, Africa's largest country and one of the world's poorest with a per capita annual income of \$440.

The 52-year-old devout Muslim, a battle-hardened soldier in Sudan's civil war, became the de facto head of state, prime minister, defence minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

He pledged sweeping reforms, including peace with rebels who have been fighting a bush war since 1983 against what they see as the domination of mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Muslim north. Bashir himself served at least one combat tour against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Bashir imposed a state of emergency, suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament, political parties and trade unions.



Gen. Bashir

Constitution
Diplomats and opposition sources said a wide-scale purge of the civil service carried out by the junta on seizing power was mainly targeted at leftists, perceived by successive Khartoum governments as SPLA sympathisers and the traditional opponents of past military governments.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said in December political opponents were being held by the junta as hostages against a possible popular uprising.

Foreign diplomats and opposition sources allege many of the scores of detained junta critics were beaten and families spend days and sometimes weeks trying to discover where their relatives are being held. Information Minister Ali Shomou categorically denied the reports of the beatings. "It is not in the Sudanese nature to be involved in such actions," he told Reuters.

Opposition sources say scores of trade union members and political activists are banned from travelling.

Doctors, whose outlawed union staged a one-week strike in November, have since been banned from leaving the country except on government-sponsored trips.

A doctor accused of leading the walkout has been sentenced to death and the junta warned that it would strike with an iron fist against any further industrial actions.

Khartoum residents say they are stopped by plainclothes policemen who ask them to empty their pockets to check whether they are carrying foreign currency, a crime punishable by death under a law introduced by the junta in July.

A prominent businessman was hanged in December for illegally possessing foreign currency and at least three others were sentenced to death by military tribunals which convicted them of similar charges.

Khartoum, a mainly slum city of an estimated seven million people, has been under a night curfew since the coup.

Tanks still stand outside army headquarters, the radio and television building and on key bridges.

Bashir has vowed never to allow the return of a multi-party system and recently spoke of an umbrella political organisation — effectively a one-party system.

Committees
Libyan-style popular committees, established by the junta and given far-reaching powers, are said by residents to have taken the law into their hands in some of Khartoum's poorest districts.

The committees, whose authority is said by Bashir to be second only to the junta, have mainly absorbed members of the now-banned National Islamic Front (NIF) party, the diplomats and opposition sources said.

Bashir, whose junta is widely suspected of leaning heavily towards militant Islamic ideology, has repeatedly denied the existence of any link between his government and the NIF, whose leader was freed from jail in December.

Diplomats and opposition sources said the junta's rhetoric, political agenda and the wide support it receives from student bodies dominated by the NIF suggested the opposite.

The NIF campaigned for years for a strict implementation of Islamic sharia laws and advocates a hard line on the SPLA rebellion.

The junta and the SPLA held two inconclusive rounds of talks, in Addis Ababa in August 1989 and four months later in Nairobi but they collapsed at the end of the year over the rebels' demand that Islamic law be lifted.

Amnesty International said in a report issued in December that government forces and militias fighting the SPLA on the army's behalf have continued the pattern of human rights violations which existed prior to the June 30 coup.

The reports mentioned killings, extra-judicial executions and mysterious disappearances of southerners in the south and in one case in Khartoum.

The junta has not commented publicly on the report, but the government-controlled press has in several articles described Amnesty's findings as lies.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1517 — Turkish troops take Cairo, Egypt.
- 1528 — England and France declare war on Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.
- 1655 — Oliver Cromwell dissolves Britain's Parliament.
- 1760 — French are defeated by British under Eyre Coote at Wandewash, India.
- 1771 — Spain agrees to cede Falkland islands to Britain.
- 1811 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte annexes Oldenburg and alienates Russia's Tsar Alexander.
- 1879 — About 4,000 heavily armed Zulu warriors assault British troops in battle of Rorke's Drift (South Africa), where 139 soldiers repel attacks for almost 12 hours.
- 1905 — "Bloody Sunday" in St Petersburg, Russia, when workers in revolt are fired upon by Cossacks and imperial army troops.
- 1944 — Allied forces begin landings at Anzio in Italy in World War II.
- 1957 — Israeli forces complete withdrawal from Sinai peninsula, but remain in Gaza Strip.
- 1966 — In Nigeria, it is disclosed that prime minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is dead, apparently slain in a coup a week earlier.
- 1968 — US B-52 bomber carrying four hydrogen bombs plunges into Greenland bay, and Washington says there is no danger of explosion because bombs were unarmed.
- 1986 — Three Sikhs are convicted of 1984 assassination of India's prime minister Indira Gandhi and are sentenced to death.
- 1989 — Israeli cabinet discusses new get-tough policies that allow soldiers to shoot even when their lives are not in danger.



Palestinian youths spray messages on walls.

Busy street turns to war zone Life under Israel in occupied areas

RAMALLAH, Occupied Territories, (WNL): One trick you learn on an ordinary day spent in a town like Ramallah in the occupied West Bank is how to turn a busy shopping street into a war zone in under four minutes: just whistle.

Perhaps it was not such an ordinary day: for one thing, the shops were open. After long days of curfew imposed by the Israeli army that had killed all activity, families were scurrying to gather enough staples to face the next three or four days of curfew when they would have to remain locked in their homes all day and night. So people bustled about in the main street of Ramallah, a town some 15 km east of Jerusalem.

Suddenly, a group of youths gathered at the corner of the high street and started to whistle. Like a strange domino-effect, metal shutters slammed down one after the other. Within two minutes the street was deserted. Sirens sounded and seconds later, the street was full of military jeeps, soldiers pounced, sweeping the air with their machine guns. But there was nothing or no-one to shoot at.

The troops went away, but the stories did not reopen. It was a short day for shopkeepers who have lost heavily during two years of Palestinian rebellion. Lucky if they can sell their wares a few mornings here and there. But then any notion of normality is an illusion in the occupied territories: workers don't work, students don't study, children don't go to school, people can't go out or visit each other, civilised society as it exists in other parts of the world is agonising.

Two years of intifada (Palestinian uprising) with its demonstrations, killing of teenagers and children by the Israeli army, curfews, arbitrary arrests, restrictions of movement and school closures have destroyed the social fabric to the point that the breakdown of law and order is almost total. For want of any competent authority, people are making their own rules and taking the law into their own hands.

Estimates
Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin estimates that about 40,000 Palestinians have been arrested since the intifada began, many of them more than once. And according to United Nations figures 37,000 have been wounded. West Bank schools reopened last summer after nearly 18 months of closure, but they were ordered to close again recently for two months.

Besides the deaths of children in the streets, one of the most flagrant signs of the disease eating into the social body is the increasing number of executions — or murder, depending on which side you are on — of Palestinians accused of collaborating with the Israeli occupying forces. Twenty years of occupation have produced a substantial crop of people who in some way work or have worked with the Israelis for

personal gain, but it seems that recruitment has increased dramatically since the beginning of the uprising.

Said 40-year-old Anita Vitullo who has lived in the occupied territories for over 10 years: "Before the intifada, the authorities used a limited group of collaborators but did not rely on them for high intelligence; they used them mainly for land fraud. It was not a well developed network, they usually chose the marginal elements in society who had already been singled out by the community as third generation collaborators from families who had worked before with the Turks and the British."

American-born Vitullo is married to Palestinian journalist Soum'an Khoury, a correspondent for the international news agency Agence France Press who is currently in jail. She has worked on human rights issues and is also a writer who has studied the question of collaborators closely. Things have changed a great deal since the beginning of the uprising in December 1987, she explains: "Now we're seeing a much broader sweep — mass recruiting: it is quantity rather than quality that the (Israeli) authorities are after."

Collaborators
Collaborators reportedly operate in every neighbourhood, village or refugee camp, forming what seems to be an effective network that has spread fear and mistrust throughout the communities of the occupied territories where approximately 2.3 million Palestinians live.

Adds Vitullo: "There are different levels of collaborator activities. At the highest level are people who are actually armed by the Israeli authorities and who use their weapons. We estimate that they number several hundred: there's one in every village, and probably 10 in every town. There are cases when a patrol of Israeli soldiers will be accompanied by the local collaborator to show where houses are that they want to destroy or to point out youths they want to arrest."

Arming collaborators is a recent development. They in turn surround themselves with body guards who also carry weapons, effectively constituting a small militia. "There is very active participation in militia activities on the part of the Israeli authorities," Vitullo said.

Instead of receiving weapons, another sort of collaborators are given communication devices, usually 2-way radios, she said. "That way, they can report on the whereabouts of wanted youths, on activities, when and where demonstrations are going to start, so that the Israeli soldiers can move in immediately." This seems to be most widespread in the Gaza Strip.

In return for their services, collaborators are given different advantages. "There are several systems. Some people are given land, other local power, i.e. the

power to issue permits and licences as they please. Others are given drugs, or even sexual favours," Vitullo said.

An unexpected development is that Palestinians are shunning the traditional networks of traffickers dealing in arms or drugs because it is said that either they have sold out to the military authorities which control the routes for these two commodities into the territories, or they are in such a compromising position that they can easily be blackmailed into collaborating.

Methods of recruiting collaborators vary widely, Vitullo said. "There is a known case, in which a high school teacher who was a suspected collaborator invited young students to his house. They were very young and he would lure them into very compromising situations and then used photographs or video tapes to blackmail them into reporting on fellow students and any activities in the school."

"Also, we are seeing very young children, from the ages of 8 or 9 to 13 being beaten just for intimidation. It is a primitive method of recruiting, but it is widely used to scare them into reporting on the activities of other kids in the schools or neighbourhoods."

An age-old method is to plant informers among prisoners. Hassan, who asked that his last name not be used, said he had plenty of time to see how the system works in Israeli prisons. He agreed to an interview the day after he was released from jail, after 45 days in detention. At 27, he has been in and out since he was a young teenager, although no charges have been filed against him.

"First of all, the Israeli military quite often uses collaborators as interrogators. They also mix them with prisoners and some are actually given prison sentences — up to life — to make them more believable," he explained. "If they can't get information out of you after interrogation, beating or torture, they can throw you into a whole room full of collaborators. After 45 days of interrogation, a prisoner thinks at last he is among his own people. They'll ask him what political group he belongs to and pretend to be friends. You have to be very careful about what you say to whom in prison these days."

Military statistics show that about 170 Palestinians accused of collaborating have been killed during the past two years, with a sharp increase in recent months. The Israelis point to the savagery of the killings, while Palestinians list their long list of "martyrs" — more than 700 killed by Israeli troops since the beginning of the intifada. Among the Palestinians killed because of collaborators, people often cite the case of Yasser Abdul Ghosh, who at 17 was known as the "dynamo" or "hero" of Ramallah. "One day he was followed by the Shin Bet (secret service) who were in civilian clothes," a local school teacher recalled.

Letters to the editor

Unpatriotic Indians

SIR: It is a matter of disgrace for India and its nationals who leave the country on its passport to make a better life to find black sheep among them who go wild on India lambasting the country and its national carrier, Air India.

In a shameless and cowardly manner they spew venom in print in a foreign country as a result of their dirty thinking machine.

If locally rents are raised every five years or prices go up in the co-ops and local market, wages going down, not a single word is uttered.

If the local airlines and travelling agents decide and implement a decision to lower the air ticket discounts, not a whisper of criticism is heard.

Yes, Air India, Indian Airlines, the departure fees at the airport, cost of soft drinks at the airport, meagre baggage allowances, all these come up for open criticism.

I have never come across any other letter to editor in the local press by any other national of any other country ever saying a single word about his country and their national carrier.

Such persons should never think of returning to India or travelling by Air India. The country and the carrier can easily afford to lose them and the 'foreign exchange' they boast of sending to their country.

Such Indians come out of India having practically nothing to boast about but after earning a couple of hundred dollars, put themselves in a special club of a rare breed: NRI's. Then they start talking big — of helping the country in increasing foreign reserves. It is indeed pitiable such persons start living in a fool's paradise created by their own inflated egos.

Vijay Paul,
Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Mideast peace process stalled

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): The Middle East peace process has fallen into a deep rut and no amount of effort by the United States and others seems likely to dislodge it soon, officials and analysts say.

After a week of meetings in Washington involving Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid and Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the sides seemed as far apart as ever on setting up an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue.

"I cannot say the gap has been narrowed. But I can say I understand some parameters of the Israeli-Palestinian position better," Rabin told reporters after a meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker.

The immediate goal of US diplomacy is to arrange a meeting between Baker, Maguid and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. That would lead to unprecedented direct talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Rabin said the sides were still too far apart on three key points to hold the long-awaited meeting.

Difficult
"It is very difficult to suppose there will be a tripartite meeting before Israel and Egypt come closer on the three main issues — the composition of the Palestinian delegation, who will announce the members of the delegation and the agenda," Rabin said.

Abdel Maguid was slightly more optimistic, saying the problems could be overcome. "This is not the first time we are faced with problems. So I am cautiously optimistic about the outcome of this whole exercise because there is a keen awareness of the necessity of peace for all of us in our area," he said.

Israel signalled it would not negotiate with anyone closely associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO by arresting leading Palestinian nationalist Faisal Husseini on Friday.

Israel has accused Husseini of being a key organiser of the Palestinian uprising, which has convulsed the territories for the past two years, claiming more than 800 lives.

But he is on the list of nearly all experts as a key member of a future Palestinian delegation and is seen as one of the most authoritative West Bank leaders as well as a man who has advocated peace with Israel.

"The Israelis seem to be building up a case against him to leave him out of the talks. But if he is not acceptable as a partner, who is?" said one Middle Eastern diplomat.

Analyst
Barry Rubin, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said all the current problems could be overcome given goodwill and imagination from the parties.

"But right now, things are stalled and it's proving very difficult to get over the hump," he said.

One administration official said Baker's main weapon to get things moving was a constant, unspoken threat to abandon his mediation effort, leaving both Israelis and Palestinians with the job of explaining the failure to their respective constituencies and the world.

"Baker will have to use all his wiles and negotiating skills. So far, he has simply refused to take 'no' for an answer," the official said. According to Geoffrey Kemp, a Middle East analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir remained the key player.

"As long as he's under pressure from his own right wing, he won't make the kind of concessions needed," he said.

On the other hand, Shamir feared being saddled with the blame for the process failing. This could reinforce calls in the US Congress for a cut in Washington's \$3 billion of aid a year to Israel.

"Shamir is a canny enough politician to know that if the process collapses completely, he will come out a loser. To that extent, the process remains alive," said Kemp.

The key stumbling block to progress remains the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Israel insists it cannot include representatives from Occupied Jerusalem or leaders deported from the occupied territories.

Art Buchwald

Bad eggs in Centam out to lunch

WHENEVER democratic revolutions occur, it is almost impossible to find anybody who used to serve with the secret police. Like the Nazis who never existed, today's bad eggs in Central America are all out to lunch.

One suspect in Panama named Pedro the Fingerbreaker was caught in the trunk of his car.

"Pedro the Fingerbreaker, I arrest you in the name of the free people of Panama," the major declared.

"Why me?" Pedro asked, as he kicked his rubber hose under the spare tyre.

"You were a member of the secret police."

"It was no secret. Everyone knew it. I was a mere bureaucrat. I parked cars at the airport."

"According to my information, you tortured political prisoners."

"That's not true. You have the wrong Pedro the Fingerbreaker. I never laid a hand on a political prisoner except in self-defence."

Torturing
"Besides torturing political prisoners, you are also reported to have shot members of the opposition on direct orders from Manuel Noriega."

"So that was his name. I can speak freely now. Noriega threatened me. Every time I saw

him he would say, 'Pedro, go out and shoot one of my enemies.' What could I do? We belonged to the same health club."

"Do you deny that you turned in your own brothers and sisters to the secret police?" the major asked.

"Only my older brother and my older sister. We have a large family, and they were asking for it."

"You are a stinker."

"That's what they called me in the secret police. They used to say, 'Pedro, you will never make a good agent because you always smell of garlic.' I am an innocent man. I was only obeying orders. Ask my superior, Tito the Toothpuller."

"We did speak to him, and he told us that you were the brains behind the death squads."

"He can't say that! He was the brains. All I did was round up blood donors. Tito's superior, Miguel the MongOOSE, will vouch for me."

"Miguel assured us that you and Tito ran the entire Fourth Section by yourselves, and he just answered the phone."

"I won't stand for this. Don't you see what's going on? They are all blaming me when I wasn't even there. I never left my house for six

years because I'm a soccer fan."

"You will get a fair trial, Pedro."

"I don't want a fair trial. If I get a fair trial, they'll shoot me. Let me surrender to President Bush like everybody else down here does."

"We have no choice. The people insist you must pay for your crimes."

Coffee

"The only thing I did was fetch coffee for those who worked late at night."

"Come on, Pedro. It's time to move out. We have a nice little cell waiting for you."

"Which one?"

"Number 567."

"That's a terrible cell. There is no window and the air is foul. I've put a lot of prisoners in there and I never had good results."

"That's perfect, Pedro. Now you will know what it's like to be on the inside of the secret police prison trying to look out."

"I am innocent. Why don't they ever talk about the good things that the secret police did instead of the bad?"

"Like what?"

"How about the father-and-son barbecue we gave for the children of dissidents? Don't we get any credit for that?"

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Jordan parties queue for legal status

AMMAN, Jan 21, (Reuters): Encouraged by a glow of democracy in Jordan, new political parties are being formed or emerging from years of suppression, but none have yet won legal recognition.

King Hussein outlawed political organisations in 1957, but allowed known party members to run in November's general parliamentary election, the first in 22 years.

"There is no real democracy without political parties," Lower House Speaker, Suleiman Arar told Reuters.

"You have a democratic state when the majority has the right to rule and the minority to oppose," said deputy Hussein Mijall, a pan-Arab nationalist. "But when the state is ruled by a single individual, group or elite, it becomes a dictatorship."

At least 16 parties, some established, some in the process of formation, are mulling over plans to apply for legal status.

But progress towards a multi-party system hangs on the king's promise of a national charter to guide political life. The idea, far from universally approved, is for a broad-based royal commission to draw up a national creed to which all would-be political parties would subscribe.

A government source said the royal commission, due to be named this month, would include members of parliament. The Lower House demanded the right to participate in writing the national charter in return for its approval of the concept.

King Hussein's declaration after the November election that the charter would be submitted

to a popular plebiscite kindled fears among some deputies that he was trying to bypass the elected parliament or the constitution.

The king tried to allay such fears last week by saying his aim was the same as in 1956 when he let Suleiman Nabulsi form a leftist Nasserite coalition government after Nabulsi's National Socialist Party won a parliamentary election.

In 1957 the king fired Nabulsi and banned parties. "We are determined to make (democracy) a success this time," King Hussein told the Jordan Times.

The king, a near-absolute ruler for the past three decades, said he wanted to share power with his people.

"I personally have no intention to go back to the old way or any other way. I personally

shouldered the responsibility for a long time. It is time for the Jordanians to share the responsibilities with and after me," he said.

The electoral success of the Muslim Brotherhood, which won more than a quarter of the seats in the Lower House, may have spurred the king towards allowing political pluralism.

Seen as a useful bulwark against radicals in the turbulent 1950s and 1960s, the Brotherhood escaped the ban on political parties. But it emerged in the election as a well-organised party with a simple, powerful slogan, "Islam is the solution."

Political parties may have to wait for the charter and the subsequent amendment of legislation before they win official recognition and none has yet applied to the Interior Ministry.

Jordanian Parliament endorses ACC charter

AMMAN, Jan 21, (Reuters): Jordan's Lower House of parliament ratified the founding charter of the Arab Council Co-operation (ACC) yesterday after a lively debate.

The ACC, an economic alliance grouping Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen, was set up in Baghdad last February.

Several deputies also called for an emergency Arab League summit on a suggestion by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel needed the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to resettle Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union.

Israeli officials expect up to 750,000 Soviet Jews to arrive over the next five to six years. Jordan, with a large proportion of Palestinians among its three million people, is worried when Israeli right-wingers say it is the Palestinian homeland.

King Hussein said on Thursday that Israel might force Palestinians from the occupied territories to make room for Soviet Jews.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran attacked deputies who questioned the motives behind the creation of the ACC, which aims to work slowly towards full unity through gradual economic integration.

When these four countries take such a move, you should clap and not level any criticism against the ACC," Badran told the house.

A number of pan-Arab nationalists criticised the presence of Egypt, the only Arab country to make peace with Israel, in the alliance.

"I am for Arab co-operation on condition that it is not under the leadership of the Americans and provided it does not work to market positions that lead to talks with Israel," said Hussein Mijall, a former member of the pro-Syrian Baathist Party.

Egypt, a close ally of the United States, is trying with Washington to promote an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo to discuss elections in the occupied territories.

Deputy Bassam Hadadin, from the banned Marxist-Leninist Jordanian People's Democratic Party, said he hoped the ACC countries would work towards "respecting democratic freedoms in their states."

Train crash kills 13 in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI, Jan 21, (Agencies): A passenger train and a goods train collided head on near the Ethiopian border, killing 13 people and injuring 50, officials said today.

Interior Ministry officials said yesterday's crash at Gatlitey on the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railway was caused by a point switching error.

The passenger train, carrying up to 600 passengers, was travelling from Djibouti towards Ethiopia on the single track line. Two of the coaches overturned in the crash.

French military helicopters stationed in Djibouti ferried the most seriously injured to hospital.

Local rescue workers late yesterday dug through the wreckage looking for bodies, assisted by French soldiers stationed in the former French colony, Interior Minister Khairah Allalch said.

Allalch said early reports indicated the accident was due to human error.

The conductor of the freight train, stopped at Gatlitey station in southern Djibouti, told officials that the passenger train was to have been diverted to another track. Instead, it arrived at an excessively high speed and smashed into the parked freight train.

The locomotive and first car of the passenger train were crushed like an accordion by the impact, AFP reported.

Communications and transportation problems caused by heavy rains in southern Djibouti hampered rescue efforts.

Hirawi, Assad in crucial talks

Focus on ouster of Aoun

DAMASCUS, Jan 21, (Agencies): Lebanon's new Syrian-backed President Elias Hirawi, struggling to extend his authority over all his country, arrived in Damascus today and went straight into talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

Syrian official media, hailing Hirawi's first foreign visit since his election in November, promised him all necessary help to remove General Michel Aoun, who refuses to recognise the internationally-supported president or his government.

Thousands of Syrian and Lebanese troops are ringing the Christian enclave around east Beirut, which Aoun controls with the aid of 15,000 mainly Christian troops from the divided army.

After a full-scale ceremonial welcome, Hirawi, his Prime Minister Selim Hoss and parliamentary Speaker Hussein Huseini began a first round of talks with Assad at the Tishreen guest palace.

Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi, parliament Speaker Abdel Qader Qaddoura and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara also attended.

"Syria is today more determined than at any time before to extend every possible help to Lebanon's legitimacy to achieve what is supposed to be done," said Al Shara in a newspaper, organ of the ruling Baath Party.

"The Lebanese brothers know well that Syria, the nearest to Lebanon, would be fully satisfied if she was asked to extend help, any help, to achieve the reconciliation process..."

The paper said "circumstances were now appropriate" to remove Aoun. It urged a unified Arab stand to achieve this on the basis of a pact to end Lebanon's 14-year civil war which was agreed by Lebanese Members of Parliament in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last October.

Aoun rejects the Arab-sponsored power-sharing pact which

led to Hirawi's election because it fails to stipulate a withdrawal of Syria's 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

Diplomats said Hirawi was expected to visit several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco, to push for a solution.

Their heads of state make up a committee formed by an Arab summit last year to try to end Lebanon's conflict.

Lebanon's two rival governments are now at an armed standoff, and the next stage of the conflict may be diplomatic rather than military.

Aoun is insisting on his government's legitimacy, though Hirawi was elected president by parliament in November.

Hirawi's Syrian supporters have backed off taking action for the time being against Aoun. Over the past few weeks, the Syrians have quietly withdrawn 15,000 troops from around Aoun's Christian enclave north of Beirut, which comprises less than one-third of Lebanese

territory.

Lebanese military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, stressed that Damascus has not abandoned the option of storming Aoun's stronghold with the 40,000 troops and hundreds of tanks in Lebanon.

Reporters who toured those areas in recent days found that many of the positions held by the Syrians are now manned by Muslim troops of the fractured Lebanese army and their militia allies.

But Damascus may be counting on diplomatic pressure and internal Christian opposition to Aoun to bring him to heel rather than risk a costly assault that would sharpen divisions and wreck what many see as Lebanon's best prospect for peace since 1975.

Speaker of the Lebanese parliament Hussein Al Huseini has predicted that Aoun would meet the same fate of that of former Panamanian leader General Manuel Noriega.

Human rights prober in Iran

NICOSIA, Jan 21, (Reuters): A United Nations human rights investigator previously barred from Iran began an eight-day visit today to probe reports of torture and mass executions.

Salvadoran law professor Reynaldo Galindo Pohl "will be informed of the operation of the judicial system" and hold talks with officials on human rights, the Iranian news agency Irna said.

The UN Human Rights Commission has criticised Iran every year since 1982 but Tehran had previously refused to let Pohl visit following his appointment in 1984. He will report on Iran to the commission's annual six-week meeting in Geneva starting on Jan 29.

On the basis of interviews outside the country, Pohl has investigated abuses ranging from torture to mass executions.

Representatives of the Mujahideen Khat, the main Iranian opposition group, met him this month to present evidence of rights violations and the names of thousands of people they said could verify the claims.

The Baghdad-based group accuses Tehran of executing thousands of dissidents, often under the guise of a drugs crackdown, and holding and torturing about 100,000 political prisoners.

A leading Iranian newspaper welcomed Pohl's visit but criticised the UN for failing to investigate human rights abuses in the Israeli-occupied territories or in the United States.

The English-language Kayhan International said Iran had to cope with what it termed as US-inspired war in 1980, an influx of two million Afghan refugees and the activities of the mujahideen.

It said Western states would have had to severely curtail civil liberties in similar circumstances.

Iran, received in Cyprus, which quoted Saturday's Kayhan editorial, said Pohl was told he could bring his own interpreter and travel freely.

Iran said that Pohl will be informed of the operation of the judicial system in the Islamic republic and hold talks with Iranian officials on human rights.



Three wise monkeys

Israelis demonstrate outside the prime minister's office during a government meeting wearing the masks of the three wise monkeys. The reference to not speaking, seeing or hearing is directed at the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and the defence minister. (Reuters wirephoto)

Outcry over Hussein arrest

Sweep in held areas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 21, (Agencies): Israeli troops rounded up more than 100 suspected Arab nationalists in the occupied West Bank amid an outcry over the arrest of a leading Palestinian nationalist.

Palestinians from across the political spectrum assailed Israel yesterday for arresting Faisal Al Hussein on suspicion he paid Arab militants \$450 to buy paramilitary uniforms.

"This shows the Israeli government and its policies are against peace and against any measure that would take the area from violence into reality and safety," journalist and prominent pro-PLO nationalist Radwan Abu Ayyash told a news conference.

In Tunis, the Arab League joined international criticism of the arrest of Hussein. Israel's closest ally, the United States, and its only Arab peace partner, Egypt, criticised his detention.

Washington regards the 49-year-old Hussein, widely seen as the main nationalist leader in the occupied territories, as a key figure in any Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. A Palestine Liberation Organisation supporter, Hussein advocates a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

While Palestinians and Israeli peace activists blasted the arrest, right-wingers hailed the detention of the man they consider the "chief terrorist" behind the 25-month-old Arab revolt in the West Bank and occupied Gaza Strip.

Right-wing legislator Rafael Eitan, who was the army chief of staff during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon to wipe out PLO fighters, called for Hussein's expulsion in a statement.

Security sources said Hussein's arrest was apparently a political move aimed at appeasing the Israeli right and Jewish settlers rather than at prosecuting him. He has been detained

'Israel sent bombs to Ethiopia' US suspects

NEW YORK, Jan 21, (Reuters): US administration officials suspect Israel sent cluster bombs to Ethiopia and have unconfirmed reports that the Soviet-backed Marxist government has already used them against rebels, the New York Times reported today.

The officials, from the State and Defence Departments, did not say when Israel might have sent the weapons, how many were involved or whether the bombs were American- or Israeli-made, the report said.

Officials were unavailable last night to confirm the New York Times report.

The newspaper quoted a US official as saying people in Ethiopia described attacks that sounded like they involved cluster bombs but added that no physical evidence had been found and no casualty figures were available.

The United States has repeatedly expressed its concern over Israel's intention to send military hardware to Ethiopia ever since the African nation restored diplomatic relations with Israel last October.

The New York Times said Israel was keen to establish strong relations with Ethiopia because it wants Addis Ababa's co-operation on allowing Ethiopian Jews to emigrate.

The report said the United States, following a number of allegations, had sent a message to Israel several weeks ago seeking clarification on whether it had supplied the weapons to Ethiopia.

It said Israel had denied it was sending cluster bombs but was less definite about what it had done in the recent past.

It also quoted a spokeswoman at the Israeli embassy in Washington as denying Israel gave or sold cluster bombs to Ethiopia.

The cluster bomb is a canister packed with hundreds of small bombs. After the bomb is dropped from an aircraft, a small explosion opens the canister in midair and the bomblets are spread over a wide area.

without trial for 18 months out of the last three years.

In the West Bank, troops arrested more than 100 Palestinians yesterday in a security sweep in the town of Hebron and nearby villages of Yatta and Idna.

Military sources said troops arrested several Palestinians who had been wanted for a long time and seized knives, axes and Arab nationalist propaganda.

In similar sweeps last week the army rounded up nearly 30 pro-PLO Arabs in the Ramallah and Tulkarm areas of the West Bank.

Meanwhile, masked Palestinians yesterday stabbed to death a

Oman allows

Palestine embassy

NICOSIA, Jan 21, (Reuters): Oman said today it would let the Palestine Liberation Organisation open an embassy in Muscat, more than one year after the declaration of a Palestinian state.

The announcement followed talks between Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

"The Sultanate's decision is to support the wise policy pursued by Palestinian President (Arafat) to resolve the Palestinian issue," the Omani news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying.

Oman, current chairman of both the Arab League and the Gulf Co-operation Council, urged the international community to work for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it said.

13 die in Turkish bus crash: Thirteen passengers on a Turkish bus were killed and 23 injured on Sunday when the vehicle plunged off an icy bridge in central Anatolia, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. (Reuters)

Eyskens to visit Jordan: Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens will begin an official three-day visit to Jordan on Wednesday, the state-run news agency Petra said. It said the minister would discuss bilateral ties and international issues of mutual concern with the Jordanians. (Reuters)



Assad (right) during talks with Hirawi at the Tishreen guest palace in Damascus. (Reuters wirephoto)

US directed rebels in failed raid

Pakistan took part: Kabul

KABUL, Jan 21, (AP): A top Afghan general charged yesterday that US Ambassador to Pakistan Robert Oakley and Peter Thomsen, a special US envoy directed the Muslim rebels in a failed attack in eastern Afghanistan last March.

Lt. Gen. Abdul Haq Ullumi, secretary for military forces of the supreme council for the defence of the homeland, also claimed that two Pakistani artillery units participated in the attack on the provincial capital of Jalalabad.

Ullumi told foreign journalists he had "clear evidence," but didn't elaborate. Thomsen was named special envoy to the Afghan insurgents last July.

The general claimed that Pakistani troops dressed in "Afghan clothes" fought alongside the rebels in eastern Afghanistan.

"This was revealed by the Afghan government and the United Nations was also informed," he said.

Pakistan and the US have denied previous Afghan

accusations of direct involvement in the civil war.

The New York Times reported in April that the Pakistani government, at a meeting attended by Oakley, ordered the Jalalabad assault. There was no Afghan present on March 5 when the decision was made, the Times said, citing a Pakistani participant in the meeting and other Pakistani officials.

Pakistani officials denied the Times report, the United States refused to comment.

According to the Times source, Lt. Gen. Hamid Gul, director of Pakistan's intelligence agency, opposed the assault, saying that the rebels were not capable of launching a conventional warfare attack to capture the town.

The mujahideen launched an all-out attack on Jalalabad beginning March 6, three weeks after Soviet forces withdrew after more than nine years of involvement in Afghanistan.

Jalalabad, a city of about 65,000 people, is 42 miles (70 kilometres) from the Pakistan border.

No parties before unity: Sanaa

ABU DHABI, Jan 21, (Reuters): North Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani was quoted today as saying that the north would not authorise new political parties before unification with the south.

"The Yemeni arena will be open for all forces that seek a presence..." Iryani told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

"But I think allowing parties before the merger with the south is a threat to the united (Yemeni) state," he added.

Marxist South Yemen has endorsed pluralism ahead of unity, for which a one-year timetable was set

from Nov 30. The move has given birth to two parties, the Nasserite Unionist Party and the Yemeni Unionist Party.

Conservative North Yemen does not have opposition political parties. A joint committee formed by the two Yemens announced two weeks ago that a full multi-party system would not be created until the constitution was ratified.

Last week, North Yemeni political elites and South Yemeni opposition parties accused the governments on both sides of seeking to monopolise power and called for political reforms before the planned merger.

Maghreb leaders gather in Tunis for union summit

TUNIS, Jan 21, (Reuters): Algerian, Mauritanian and Moroccan leaders join Ben Ali of Tunisia and Muammar Khaddafi of Libya today for a summit called to complete the institutions of the Arab Maghreb Union and start work on economic integration.

The five-nation union, with a population of more than 60 million people and a combined gross national product of more than \$100 billion a year, was set up in February last year to meet the challenge of a single European market.

Khaddafi, arriving yesterday here called for accelerated efforts toward unifying the nations into a Maghreb union.

"I hope the countries of the Arab Maghreb move quickly on the road to integration because in our world today there is no place for small, weak states," Khaddafi told reporters on arrival at Tunis' airport where he was greeted by Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali.

The Tunis summit is the first gathering of the five leaders since they signed the treaty of Marrakesh 11 months ago.

Tunisia, which is taking over the chairmanship from Morocco, says it sees its task as finishing off the institutional work so that the union can make faster progress toward free movement of people, goods and capital

throughout the region.

Maghreb officials say East-West détente and the collapse of Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe, on top of a united European community, make union more urgent than ever.

"In this day and age there's no room for the weak or for dwarf states. No one can make his way in the world unless he's strong," Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi said yesterday.

But the obstacles remain formidable. Political turmoil in Algeria has worried its neighbours, the dispute in the Western Sahara continues to sour Algerian-Moroccan relations.

Students, police clash in Tunis

TUNIS, Jan 21, (Reuters): Students at Tunis University clashed with police yesterday, causing the suspension of lectures at the faculties of law and economic science, a student leader said.

"Some students threw rocks at a police station at the law faculty and security forces intervened," the student said.

Clashes also broke out at the nearby faculty of economic science, he said, adding that only a few students took part.

EVENTS



Nehru Birth Centenary Competition

The IAC held the concluding ceremony of the Nehru Birth Centenary Children's Competition at their auditorium in Funaitees. The pictures show two of the participants.



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

The seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 243259.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
The Sultan Gallery extended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Iraqi ceramics
AN exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Singers

THE Kuwait Singers will begin rehearsals for its May concert on Monday, January 22, at 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. New members are most welcome. For more information contact 4884134 or 3900922.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Soussarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaitees) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Hotel Ramada Al Salam
A GRAND Indian Food Festival will be held from Jan 21-26 to coincide with the Republic Day of India. Arun Budhiraja, the Ambassador of India will grace the occasion, which will be supported by various Indian companies with stalls displaying Indian products. Enchanting performances by Indian classical dancers and musicians will be the highlights. A scrumptious Indian cuisine seeks to complete a memorable event.

Flag hoisting
On the occasion of the Republic Day of India on Jan 26, 1990, there will be flag hoisting ceremony at 0900 hrs on that day, in the Indian Embassy premises at No. 34, Istiqlal Street.

Ladies International League
LIL newcomers coffee morning will be held on Monday 29 January from 10 am to 12 noon at the Sheraton Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait and LIL are most welcome.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Ballet
STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

British Council

Story Telling Session: Thursday, Jan 25 at 10.30 am. Come and enjoy the magic of books with a story teller. Children of all nationalities, ages 3-7 are invited. Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Lecture: "Postgraduate Study in Britain" on Monday, Jan 22 at 6.00 pm. Come and find out about studying for your Masters or Ph.D. in the UK. Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Bookworm Contest: The British Council is launching a bookworm contest open to children aged 7-15 years. Read as many books as you can. Have fun reading and win prizes. Register now at the British Council Library. Closing date for registration: Jan 27, 1990.

The Carnival Nite

"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your glitz and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

SAAZ aur Aawaz
SAAZ aur Aawaz which is one of the leading Indian musical groups with complete orchestra presents their fourth musical programme entitled "Bhule Bise Geet" covering hit songs of yesteryears at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaitees on Friday, Feb 2, 1990 at 6 pm. There will also be lucky draw prizes. For Passes call 3985456/3610224/5638026 after 4 pm.

Bar-B-Q

IAC is organising its first Bar-B-Q night with the Octave group. Programmes start at 7 pm includes music, dance, games, and vegetarian and non-vegetarian bar-b-q. Entries are restricted by passes only. For details contact Sharma at 2644863, Sunny at 4343329, Jacob 4319549, George 4735972.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorrington. The auditions will be held in the Theatre on 21 and 22 January at 8 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.

Raga Sharqi

INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raqs Sharqi, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on 22nd Feb 90.

Non stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour."

Highlights: Best Carnival Couple (Fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers. Hurry

Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

Bharati Kalai Mandram

The Bharati Kalai Mandram will hold a reception for the Indian cyclist Jayaraman Ganesan at the Indian Embassy Hall on Monday, Jan 22, at 6 pm. All are welcome.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour."

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

The Carnival Nite (By the Entertainers)

IN the arena of entertainment "The Entertainers" welcomes all to witness their 'Carnival Nite' at the Ramada Salam Hotel's (Le Mirage Ballroom) on the 22nd February (Thursday) 1990 commencing from 9:00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be: Parade by King Momo. Crowning of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival."

...Like a Hurricane!!

SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730263/2543219.

NRI Forum lecture on Taxation and Investments

NRI Investors Forum is holding a lecture session at Indian embassy on Tuesday, the 30th January at 7.30 pm. The meeting would be addressed by a visiting expert from India. All Indians are welcome.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SPORTS

Daniella Tennis 1990

Daniella organises again this year a tennis tournament for Dances. You can participate in ladies singles, men's singles and "social doubles". All Danish tennis players are welcome. Both beginners and more experienced. For further details and registration please call Carsten — 2402696 (office) or 3710215 ext. 27 (private) before Friday, Feb 2.

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-

side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casmiro.

Shutle Cup

KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match between the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners.

All are cordially invited. For further information please call, tel. 5332052 S. Rizvi.

Now at the MBH Sports Centre

Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing shortly.

Ergonomic Fitness Computer

tests and courses now available at Messilah. Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

EMBASSY officials

headed by Consul General, Olivia V. Palala, recently met with the leaders of the various Filipino organisations in Kuwait in order to thrash out the issue of integrating the Philippine community under one confederation or "umbrella organisation."

A majority of the associations represented by their respective leaders, during the meeting, came to a decision of forming a Council of Leaders whose membership shall comprise official representatives coming from the eight (8) existing Filipino organisations in Kuwait, namely: KAPILKU, FLASSIK, PBK, SPOK, FCC, FIL-CHECK, KAMAY and KPBL. With this development, the associations agreed to form among themselves an interim body that will undertake the task of formulating the constitution and by-laws of the council.

The interim body will convene at the Mabuhay Restaurant on Thursday, January 25 at 8.30 pm. All individual associations are encouraged to have at least two (2) representatives to this "constitutional convention."

As this issue is of common interest and calls for combined action, it is expected that all associations will be properly represented to this convention and prove once and all that regardless of their particular fields of endeavor, they work for a common cause, that is unity among the members of the Filipino community in Kuwait.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

THE MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Alfa Wajh Lil Ha-qeqa: Arabic serial, starring Salah Zool-fikar, Muhsina Taw-fiq, and Mohammed Redha
12.05 From My Kitchen: Local programme
12.15 Al Malqouf: local weekly serial (part 3), starring Abdul Husain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber, Abdullah Kharaibit

THE EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Beren: cartoon serial
5.15 Mama Anisa and the Children: local children programme prepared and presented by Samiya Mohammed
5.15 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Aasheq: historical serial (part 5)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
8.00 Cultural programme
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: local weekly programme, with show guest Dr Mohammed Al Rumaihi, prepared and presented by

Mohammed Al Barjes
10.15 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 1) starring Mostafa Fehmi, Dalal Abdul Aziz and Shereen
11.15 Al Mawed: variety programme (part 3) with show guest Hasan Mustafa
12.25 News summary
12.30 The World Today via Satellite
12.55 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Winnie the Pooh. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Wild South "Kakapo Night Parrot". A look at the Kakapo, a bird that lives in the forests of New Zealand.
7.00 Roving Report. A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.
7.30 Trap "The Ghosts of Fort Lennot".
8.00 The News in English
8.30 Around the World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world.
9.00 Tour of Duty. "True Grit".
10.00 Homeroom. "Dirty Laundry". With Lisa and Devon running for president, Darryl tries to demonstrate for his class the true nature of a democracy.
10.30 Colourised Movie. "Black Magic". Starring: Orson Welles, Nancy Guild, Akim Tamiroff. The exciting adventures of the great cagliostro who is thwarted when he attempts to take over an empire.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



A file photo of Annie Lennox of the Eurythmics singing in front of 20,000 spectators during a rock concert at Wembley stadium in London.

Japan film festival

Today

Lost in the Wilderness (1986), 140 mins. Director: Junya Sato. Subtitled in Arabic. To be held at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Auditorium starting 7.30 pm.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Istiqlal Pharmacy
Safat Square
Al Amin Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.

Hawalli & Nagra
Noura Pharmacy
Othman St.

Salmya & Rumekhiya
Markaziya Pharmacy
Amre Bin Al Aas St.

Fahadheel
Sadaf Pharmacy
Makkah St.

Jaleel Al Shiyookh
Salamah Pharmacy
Main St.

Jahra
Najah Pharmacy
4th area

Cinema

Al Andalus

Arabic film

Salmyah

Hall Booked

Al Hamra

Arabic film

Drive-In

Arabic film

Al Firdous

Nadine

Fahadheel

World Gone Wild

Al Jahra

Sicilian

Granada

Hall Booked

Salsabikhat

They Went That Way

Jaleel

Zulum

Almadi Drive-In

Cold Steel

PRAYERS	
Fajr	5.19 am
Zohr	12.00
Asr	2.57 pm
Maghreb	5.17
Isha	6.37

Finnish ambassador hosts reception

The Finnish Ambassador to Kuwait, Tiro Linhofara, recently hosted a reception to celebrate the Embassy's new premises in Surra. The pictures show (top) the ambassador and his wife; (others) some of the diplomats and guests who attended the reception.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Businessmen optimistic over investment prospects

Kuwait to buy new oil tankers

KUWAIT, Jan 21, (Kuna): Kuwait will soon buy four new oil tankers to cope with the rising demand, board chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC) Abdul Fattah Al Bader has said.

Bader, in an interview with a local daily published Saturday, said that the company had studied the world markets needs of tankers for the next decade and found that it needed bigger numbers of those large vessels.

He predicted that prices of carrying oil will increase within the few coming days, noting that Kuwait had thus decided to initiate a programme to build four new oil tankers.

The chairman affirmed that the KOTC will expand its fleet to protect Kuwait from the expected soaring prices, to prove its presence in the market and finally to carry out for its customers at reasonable prices.

Bader noted that at present carrying a million barrel of crude from the Gulf area to the east necessitates 30 trips, underlining that any increase in production of Gulf countries such as Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran or UAE will entail additional trips to carry their oil to the Japanese or European markets.

Bader said that Kuwait owns one of the most modern international fleets for carrying petroleum byproducts, noting that the KOTC carries almost 55 per cent of oil refined in Kuwait.

Slower economic growth predicted

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 21, (UPI): World-wide economic growth is expected to slow down this year and the revolutionary changes in central and Eastern Europe will have "profound" global economic implications, a senior UN economist said yesterday.

The economist said China, which suffered a drastic drop in growth in 1989, will have to cut down inflation and control its monetary situation. But he declined to link political turmoil to the country's economic slowdown.

Goran Ohlin, UN assistant secretary-general for development research and policy analysis, said latest forecasts suggested that the industrial countries' annual growth will fall below 3 per cent in 1990, compared with the 1989 growth rate of slightly over 3 per cent.

"The world economy is expected to slow down further in 1990, but will retain a considerable diversity of growth 'experience' among countries," Ohlin said.

Latin America and Africa, which had slow growth in 1989, will have a "moderate" one in 1990. South and East Asia will have a "moderate deceleration" but its average growth rate will remain high by most standards.

China, whose economic growth dropped to 5 per cent in 1989 from 11 per cent in 1988, is not expected to return to the rapid growth of the 1980s and will remain close to last year's sharply reduced rate.

"China was going to restrain the economy in any case and I don't think that the impact of demonstrations and political turmoil in Beijing was that great," he said.

The 11 per cent growth created a "bottleneck" in the Chinese economy, the government was running behind developments and the monetary situation was getting out of hand, he said.

The UN economist said inflation in China rose to an unprecedented 25 per cent in the first half of 1989 because of economic imbalances and "contractionary measures" taken in the world's most populous nation.

Inside China, Wei said, Citic's primary focus will be to "put limited resources in places most needed by the state," with special emphasis on energy, transport, high-technology and other key industries.

Wei, a graduate of Brown University in the United States, was formerly a Citic vice president. He replaces Xu Zhaolong, who reportedly asked to retire due to his advanced age.

Air service brings whiff of capitalism

PYONGYANG, Jan 21, (Reuters): A new air service this week brought a whiff of capitalism to North Korea and businessmen on the inaugural flight said they were optimistic over investment prospects in the rigidly communist nation.

Some of the 75 Asian businessmen on the flight said they saw potential in textiles and electronics manufacture although antiquated machinery and Byzantine bureaucracy created problems.

Finding itself increasingly short of ideological soul-mates since reform swept Eastern Europe, North Korea had realised it needs capitalistic help with its backward economy, diplomats said.

But they added that self-styled great leader Kim Il-Sung, whose personality dominates every aspect of North Korean life, was determined to keep

strict political control.

"The leadership is trying to achieve economic targets by ideological mobilisation without changing anything in the structure of industry or political organisation," said one diplomat.

The exact state of the North Korean economy is impossible for outsiders to know because the country does not publish meaningful economic statistics.

Officials last year put the country's per capita income at \$2,500 but Western economists said it was actually less than \$1,000.

A brief tour of the capital reveals a showcase of monuments and public buildings that is largely in darkness by 10 pm.

Sometimes through windows naked flames can be seen flickering. Even the few hotels for visitors use the minimum of lighting.

Foreigners living here say meat and fish are rationed but people have enough to eat and basic foods like rice are free, along with health care, housing and schooling.

There are few cars on the streets of Pyongyang and on bleak winter evenings — with the temperature well below freezing — there are huge queues at bus stops.

But the businessmen on the charter flight by Hong Kong travel agency Joinworld Travel International said they were impressed by the standard of samples they were shown and the diligence of the workforce.

"They know very well the way of business and their people are sharp and efficient," said Thai businessman Pienakdi Prakaspaet, adding that he had talks involving steel, food, plastics and textiles and that he would be coming back.

"Compared with many other communist countries the living standard is high and the cost of labour is still reasonable," he said.

Hong Kong businessman Joe Ng, one of the organisers of the trip, said the atmosphere of North Korea reminded him of a visit to China in 1970 when the Cultural Revolution was at its height, but the business prospects here were better.

"I don't know whether it's because the country is a more manageable size but they seem much better organised," he said. "Most businessmen on this trip see tremendous potential."

"We know North Korea is going to open up faster than everyone thinks," Joinworld plans a weekly charter flight from Hong Kong to Pyongyang via China from April.

A problem North Korea faces is that because of defaults on earlier foreign

loans totalling "several billion dollars" — in the words of a senior North Korean official last year — the country cannot yet go to Western financial institutions for help.

Diplomats said the government wanted to maintain its fierce self-reliance but was being forced to look westward because its economic ties with most other socialist countries were becoming more difficult.

Informed sources said the Soviet Union intends to transform its relations with other countries to a hard-currency basis in the next few years and they had "no information" on any direct aid now coming from Moscow.

"They get some loans and credits for stated industrial enterprises and they pay for these with goods produced ... last year the Soviet Union and North Korea launched their first joint venture," said one source.

Diplomats said another worry for the country was that it saw South Korea leaving it behind economically and it had to struggle to maintain military parity.

In his New Year speech Kim Il-Sung called for greater economic efforts, especially in the fields of energy, coal mining and steel production.

Officials said the great leader's power to inspire North Korea's 20 million people — even after 45 years in power — was demonstrated last year when an army of "volunteers" laboured to complete a vast sports complex in time for a festival.

"It was very difficult for us, but in the end we managed it," said one official, who wished only to be known as L.I. "So afterwards we had conviction that if we all unite round our great leader Comrade Kim Il-Sung we can accomplish everything."

Overseas construction eyes Soviet Union

South Korea seeks Mideast markets

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 21, (AP): South Korea's overseas construction industry, once dubbed the country's "golden goose," is hoping new markets in the Middle East and Eastern Europe will help it recover from a long slump.

South Korean contractors are eyeing post-war reconstruction projects in Iran and Iraq, expanding business in Libya and starting projects in the Soviet Union and other socialist nations.

"Finally, we seem to be coming out of a long tunnel of recession," said Choi Jae-Yol, a government economic researcher, referring to a surge in South Korean construction contracts overseas.

In the past two decades, South Korean contractors have won \$90 billion worth of contracts overseas, earning valuable foreign currency needed for the country's economic development.

But in recent years, the country's overseas construction slumped, with its volume of contracts falling from an all-time high of \$13.7 billion in 1981 to \$1.6 billion in 1988.

After eight years of recession,

the overseas construction volume began to pick up last year, reaching \$2.4 billion, and officials expect business in 1990 to top \$7.7 billion, some of it in socialist and communist nations.

South Koreans are expanding their business from labour-intensive civil engineering to technology-oriented projects such as power plants, but they still rely heavily on cheap labour to stay competitive.

South Korean contractors abroad hire cheap labour from Bangladesh, Thailand, the Philippines and other Third World Asian nations. At the end of 1989, 42,000 foreigners were in South Korea, mostly on short-term contracts, compared with 24,000 Koreans.

Korean overseas construction workers are paid roughly \$475 a month, while other foreigners earn only one-third of that amount, a price edge companies say is necessary for them to remain competitive.

Officials say Libya will emerge as South Korea's largest market in 1990 with \$5.7 billion in contracts, followed by Saudi Arabia with \$820 million, Iran with \$422 million and Southeast Asia with \$477 million.

Last September, Libya picked Dong-A Construction Co. of Seoul as a prime contractor for a \$5.3 billion water project. A formal contract for the project, the largest awarded a South Korean firm, will be signed this year.

South Korean companies received nearly 80 per cent of their overseas contracts in the Middle East in the past, but Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations scaled down development revenues as prices for their oil dropped.

Choi, who works for the government-controlled Overseas Construction Association, said the recovery pace of the foreign construction business depends on the ability to share multi-billion-dollar rehabilitation projects in Iran and Iraq.

South Korea is one of the few countries in the world able to do business with both Iran and Iraq. During the eight-year Gulf war, South Korea stayed neutral.

Iran sought South Korean assistance in getting US-made jet parts for its airforce, but the Seoul government rejected the request, citing its neutrality. Iran retaliated by downgrading its ties with Seoul to a charge d'affaires,

but restored full ties with Seoul after the 1988 ceasefire.

South Korea's rejection of Iran's request helped it open ties with Iraq, with which Seoul had no diplomatic relations. South Korea now maintains diplomatic relations with both Mideast nations.

Kim Sung-Jo, a director-general in the Construction Ministry, said South Korea business in the region would increase as the two nations promote projects to rehabilitate their war-torn economy.

Several South Korean companies have sent teams of experts to Tehran to inspect a major petrochemical project at Bandar Khomeini in southern Iran, which was abandoned by Japan's Mitsui Corp.

Economy reeling from conflicts

Foreign exchange plunges into crisis

NOUAKCHOTT, Jan 21, (Reuters): The Atlantic beach, once home to hundreds of Senegalese fishermen in brightly-painted dug-out canoes, is almost deserted.

The fishermen, who monopolised the rich waters off the capital Nouakchott, fled when communal riots swept through Mauritania and its southern neighbour Senegal last April.

They were joined by thousands of other Senegalese and black Mauritians, depriving the country of skilled labour and foreign exchange and plunging the economy into crisis.

But recent plentiful rains in this mostly desert country and firmer world prices for iron ore have helped cushion the blow, diplomats and economists said.

KD rates steady

KUWAIT, Jan 21, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits were barely changed in thin trade yesterday, a normal trend seen during the European weekend.

Dealers quoted overnight, tomorrow-next and spot-next funds steady at around 8-7/16, 5/16 per cent. One-week to one-year deposits were indicated flat in a range of 8-1/2, 1/4.

Commercial banks quoted spot rates of 0.29240/70.

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Urban jobless rate hits 2.3 pc

China cuts spending

BEIJING, Jan 21, (AP): China's urban unemployment rate reached 2.3 per cent by the end of last year's third quarter as a result of state-mandated cutbacks in construction and spending, a newspaper reported today.

The China Daily said 3.4 million people were officially listed as waiting for work at the end of October. It quoted Song Changqing, chief of the labour and wages division of the State Statistical Bureau, as saying the total by now "may far surpass" that.

The rate for the same period in 1988 was 2 per cent. However, Chinese unemployment figures do not include rural residents, who are considered permanently employed on the land even though millions have left to work in factories in recent years. More than 3 million rural factories shut down during 1988 due to the government's austerity programme, but their former workers are not counted in Song's figures.

His figures also do not include millions of urban workers who were laid off in the last quarter of the year because

their factories lacked operating capital. Most receive 70 per cent of their base pay while idle.

However, base pay does not include the bonuses and subsidies that Chinese workers use to make ends meet, and the resultant drop in income caused so much discontent that some cities ordered factories to call the workers back even if there is nothing for them to do.

Chinese sources this winter have reported labour unrest, including petitions asking permission to demonstrate, at factories in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing in the south-west and several northeastern cities.

Factories are facing hard times because the government has sharply cut bank credit in all effort to control inflation that hit 26 per cent in 1988. The government says the 1989 rate will be much lower.

Joblessness is greatest in inland cities and industrial mining areas, the China Daily quoted Song as saying. He said only half a per cent of Beijing's workforce was unemployed.

E. European living standards set to rise

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): By the year 2000, the living standard in Central and Eastern Europe will double or triple — but not in the Soviet Union, an international banker predicted yesterday.

"The average living standard in Central Europe will have tripled, and in Eastern Europe will have doubled," said Klaus Friedrich, director of the European department at the Institute of International Finance.

The institute is an association of 160 of the world's leading banks with world-wide operations. Friedrich included East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia in Central Europe; Poland, Romania and Bulgaria in the east.

The US Central Intelligence Agency has estimated the average income in East Germany as \$12,480 in 1988 and in Romania, \$5,490. Friedrich said he did not think these countries would outpace the United States, which he believed also has a capacity to grow.

Friedrich, who was born in Germany, came to the United States in 1962 and is a former official of the US Federal Reserve system. He spoke at a meeting of the national association of business economists.

On the difference between the Soviet Union and its allies, he explained that Central and Eastern European countries are comparatively small and do a great deal of international trade, so that help from the Western world can make a difference.

More investment planned for Hong Kong, says Chinese official

BEIJING, Jan 21, (UPI): The new president of China's leading foreign trade and investment conglomerate said Friday the state-owned company plans to increase investment in "profitable" Hong Kong projects this year.

"Business is business," said Wei Mingyi, the new president of China International Trust and Investment Corporation, or Citic, at his first briefing for foreign reporters since being named to the post.

"Citic is a profit-oriented company. We have to pay back foreign loans so any investment must be profitable," he said, adding that he expected investment in Hong Kong will increase over 1989.

Inside China, Wei said, Citic's primary focus will be to "put limited resources in places most needed by the state," with special emphasis on energy, transport, high-technology and other key industries.

Wei, a graduate of Brown University in the United States, was formerly a Citic vice president. He replaces Xu Zhaolong, who reportedly asked to retire due to his advanced age.

The 66-year-old Wei joined Citic in 1985 after serving as vice minister of the Ministry of Electronics Industry. One of Wei's superiors during his five-year stint with the Electronics Ministry was current communist party chief Jiang Zemin.

Wei predicted China's struggling economy will show signs of recovery in 1990.

An austerity programme imposed last fall has left many industries strapped for cash and raw materials, and industrial production dropped last October for the first time in a decade. Many of the past decade's market-oriented reforms have been put on hold.

"The market in China will recover and grow," Wei said, claiming that overstocking of some products has already begun easing.

Founded in 1979, Citic is administered by the state council, China's cabinet, but has functioned as a highly independent investment firm, attracting foreign funding for China's modernisation programmes.

Its chairman, Rong Yiren, is a confidant of the Chinese leadership known as the country's leading capitalist. Citic subsidiaries are

involved in trade in everything from travel to arms sales.

Wei dismissed the possibility of a rumoured merger between the Hong Kong-based Dragonair and Cathay Pacific Airways, both of which fly to the mainland. Citic has bought into both companies.

"Each company has its own organisation and its own financing, and they don't operate on the same route," Wei said. "There's a possibility for some kind of co-operation, but I don't think they can merge together very easily."

Wei also said he expects smooth resolution of a labour dispute at a Citic-owned steel plant in Delaware. Under Citic's theoretically socialist ownership, the American management of the plant fired previously employed workers and hired non-union labourers.

"We will send Vice-President Huang Jiquan (to Delaware) next month," Wei said, stressing however that the steel plant is under American management and a decision will be reached in the United States.

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Boeing Co. plans to cut workforce

SEATTLE, Jan 21, (AP): Less than two months after settling a strike triggered in part by mandatory overtime for production workers, Boeing Co. said it expects to cut its Seattle-area workforce by as many as 5,000 people.

The aerospace giant said it needed to shed workers because it had completed start-up work on its newest generation jumbo jet and because warmer East-West ties had cast doubt on the outlook for its defense business.

Boeing said it hoped to achieve half the cuts through retirements and resignations, but company officials hinted that further layoffs could be possible.

About 1,700 hourly workers are to be laid off through April with another 800 later in the year, the company said Thursday.

The Martin Marietta Astronautics Group also announced plans Thursday to cut about 200 jobs by the end of February, but will transfer many workers to other posts within the aerospace giant, a company spokeswoman said in Denver.

The job losses come as Boeing enjoys a record backlog of more than 1,700 commercial jets worth about \$85 billion, with deliveries scheduled beyond the turn of the century.

Last year, the company added 10,000 employees in the Puget Sound area and was so strapped for production workers it borrowed 600 machinists from Lockheed. The company also required workers to put in heavy overtime schedules, which became a major factor in the 48-day strike by machinists that ended in November.

The Lockheed workers were needed on the new 747-400 jumbo jet, which fell behind schedule as the company introduced four different versions of the long-range jetliner in 1989.

Trent beats test targets

THE Rolls-Royce Trent, the world's most powerful turbofan, has beaten its first two performance test targets on its way to entering service with the new generation of wide-bodied airliners.

The Trent, newest member of the RB211 family, is due to run for the first time this summer, and firm orders and options already total 174 engines. Certification and first flight are scheduled for 1992 and the engine will enter service on Air Europe's new McDonnell Douglas MD-11's in 1993.

It has also been ordered by Cathay Pacific Airways and TWA to power their Airbus A330-300s, and will be available for the new Boeing 767X.

Travel rule eased

Banks told to transfer money

KUWAIT, Jan 21, (Kuna): A press report said here today that the Iraqi government has issued orders and instructions to banks in Iraq authorizing overseas transfer of money in hard currencies.

Quoting unidentified sources a local daily said that instructions of the government have limited the amount of transfer to \$700 for all Iraqis who are granted permission to travel overseas.

The new step comes after the government of Iraq reversed its old policy of prohibiting travel of Iraqis to outside the country since the start of the war because of security reasons.

Meanwhile, the paper said that Iraqi authorities began issuing new passports and granting visas for those wishing to leave the country on vacations.

Inflation fears drive equity, bond prices down

Fed may not ease economic policy

POLITICAL uncertainty in Japan and international concern over prospects of rising inflation were largely responsible for widespread nervousness and volatility in international equity and bond markets alike. The poor PPI and static CPI numbers and an increasing recognition that with a number of elements still in the pipeline inflation numbers could move higher in the near future, dimmed market perception of an imminent ease in Federal Reserve policy, according to NBK weekly market report.

The disappointing trade figures largely attributable to the Boeing strike also provided little evidence for future narrowing.

The dollar ended the week at DM1.71 and £\$1.64.

Price pressures have yet to succumb

to moderating economic activity. With a number of factors still in the pipeline, namely higher oil prices, the impact of an exceptionally cold winter in the US and the dollar's weakness, have still to materialise in the consumer price index.

Although we believe inflationary fears are largely exaggerated the CPI over the next few months is likely to be stuck in a 4.5-5.0 per cent range. Against these inflationary concerns and the dollar's weakness the Federal Reserve will continue to be cautious in its approach and any likelihood of near term easing of policy can probably be ruled out.

Whilst the markets remain nervous of central bank intervention the dollar will continue to trade in its current narrow range.

Trading ranges for the week are

DM1.69-1.73 and Yen 144-147.

Equity and bond prices were driven down this week due to fears about higher inflation and a possible rise in interest rates. Sterling remained nervous with no clear direction.

The batch of economic data releases provided an unexpectedly strong surge in retail sales although the year on year figure remains subdued. The much smaller than expected PSDR number prompted speculation that the budget surplus could fall short of its £12.5 billion target in the current fiscal year.

Sterling ended the week at £/\$1.637 and £/DM 2.81.

The impact of rising pay awards on the government's anti-inflationary strategy is causing considerable concern with the average earnings number

coming in at 9.25 per cent. This is likely to increase with several major wage settlements still to be agreed, implying an escalating wage-price spiral.

The balance of payments figures due out next week should provide a further indication of whether sterling's improved competitiveness is contributing towards a continued narrowing of the trade deficit with higher exports and import demand weakening in line with lower economic activity.

Sterling on competitive terms is now more justifiably valued and for the time being the currency is expected to be underpinned by investors taking advantage of the higher interest rate differential.

Trading ranges for the coming week are expected to be as follows: DM2.79-2.83 and £/\$1.63-1.67.

At their regular council meeting this week the Bundesbank left its credit policies unchanged. However, although the recent trend in money supply figures have eased within target ranges, should inflationary numbers come in higher or if wage settlements agreed are well above the norm, the Bundesbank may yet deem it necessary to raise rates.

Despite concerted central bank intervention the yen remains weak ahead of the elections next month. Fears that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party will perform badly following 35 years in power and the opposition an unknown quantity has unsettled the markets.

Separately, wholesale prices increased 2.5 per cent in 1989 which was the first increase in seven years mainly due to the 3 per cent consumption tax

introduced last April although the weak domestic currency and rise in crude oil prices also contributed.

In the US merchandise exports were slightly below expectations falling to \$30.19 billion in November from \$31.05 billion in October, \$30.68 billion in September and \$27.54 billion in November 1988.

Merchandise imports were higher than anticipated but also declined to \$40.69 billion in November from \$41.28 billion in October, \$39.19 billion in September and \$38.09 billion in November 1988.

Industrial production rose a higher than forecast 0.4 per cent in December compared with a 0.3 per cent increase in November and a 0.4 per cent fall in October.

Bond market picks up

Fed won't send rates any lower for now

NEW YORK, Jan 21, (UPI): US treasury issues recovered somewhat Friday after a week in which bond prices, already depressed by inflation fears and a selloff in the Japanese bond market, tumbled on word that the US Federal Reserve won't send short-term interest rates any lower for now.

The benchmark US long bond, the 8-1/8 of 1991, closed at 98 10/32 to yield 8.28 against 8.17 per cent a week before, for a loss the week of 1-1/4 points or \$11.25 for each \$1,000 face value. Its yield, though off from Thursday, remained at levels not seen since last summer. Bond yields move up as prices decline.

The week's close represented a

gain from Thursday prices, when the long bond was at 97 20/32 for a yield of 8.33 per cent.

Joseph Plocek, senior vice president and chief economist for the McCarthy, Crisanti and Maffei Inc. trading firm, said this recovery was "mainly just a bounce from the huge selloff we saw yesterday."

But he said a bearish local economic forecast from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia "certainly was a plus." So were Bank of Japan indications that it would not hike interest rates. This steered capital away from Japanese instruments and back into US treasuries.

Still, prospects are anything

but cheery.

"Right now the bond market is in a very bad mood," said Robert Dederick, the Northern Trust Co. Bank of Chicago's chief economist. "It sees no sun in the sky and is prepared to have every cloud disturb it."

Looking on the bright side, Smith Barney's credit market comment said the yield rise "solidifies our view that the economy will slow further over the months ahead," and offers "an excellent buying opportunity."

Heavy selling put the long bond off nearly a point Thursday on a report that two key Federal Reserve Board governors who earlier urged easier credit now

oppose lowering short-term interest rates. Investors had been hoping for more Fed easing, which could bolster long bonds.

Securities strategist James Kochan of Merrill Lynch capital markets said "few investors anticipated a selloff of this magnitude."

Oversupply loomed as a potential effect of the treasury auction next week of \$5 billion in 40-year resolution Funding Corp. Bonds. Refcorp, the US agency overseeing the Savings and Loan Association bailout programme, sold \$4.5 billion of 30-year bonds in October in its first auction.

MEED official outlines programme

Seminar on banking and finance

MIRJANA HERAK, manager, publications and conferences of Meed, the UK-based economic weekly, is currently visiting Kuwait to organise a seminar on Gulf banking and finance in Kuwait. The seminar will be held on March 18 and 19 at the Kuwait SAS Hotel.

The conference has been sponsored by Meed (Middle East Economic Digest). The seminar will be addressed by three leading speakers from Europe and from Kuwait. In between the speeches, there will be short presentations from top business houses.

Workshops will also be organised during the seminar. It will focus mainly topics on which Meed has released profiles recently. There will be five workshops for both days running concurrently, each of three hours duration.

During the conference the Middle East Financial Directory 1990 (13th Edition) will be released with new features such as a bibliography for bankers and buyer's guide of products and services for banks.

Herak said Meed, the well known London-based magazine provides business information on the Middle East, has recently embarked on an ambitious programme of building an even more comprehensive information service. In order to satisfy these requirements, Meed has launched a series of in-depth reports called Meed Profiles, and has planned conferences and seminars which will provide a top-level forum for the discussion of important issues.

She said Meed Profiles include country and industry and market studies. Written and researched by Meed specialists and a select number of outside experts, these 100-150-page publications are designed to assist decision-makers in assessing medium and long-



Mirjana Herak, (right) publications and conferences manager of MEED, pictured with P.B.V. Rajan, manager, Delta Electronics Centre, Kuwait during a press conference at Kuwait Meridien.

ger-term potential of their markets.

Each report starts with an up-to-date overview, followed by a detailed analysis of all the major sectors of an economy or industry. The analysis is supported by precise data compiled by Meed information service and the emphasis is on practical information such as details about local regulations, changes in business law, local agency systems, methods of financing trade and projects, etc. Each report also provides economic forecasts for the next five years.

Meed has so far published profiles on Iraq, Egypt, Turkey and Algeria as well as industry studies on the Gulf banking and finance and Arab industries in the 1990s.

The programme for this year includes profiles of Saudi Arabia and Iran, among other countries, as well as several market and industry studies.

Meed's Conference and Seminars programme for 1990

starts with a major conference on Saudi Arabia to be held on March 23 in London. The theme is doing business in Saudi Arabia and the conference is entitled: "Reaching the Saudi Consumer in the 1990s."

It will also cover the five-year development plan, the economic prospects for the next decade, the size and structure of Saudi markets, private investment, legal issues and successful strategies for marketing industrial and consumer goods in Saudi Arabia. The conference is sponsored by the Saudi American Bank.

It will bring together a top panel of speakers with top executives from all over the world who are keen to find out what the most important market the Middle East has to offer in the 1990s.

For information on Meed Publications and Conferences, please contact Delta Electronics in Kuwait or Meed in London: Tel. 1-4045513, Fax 01-242 1450.

Turkey signs West German frigates deal

ANKARA, Jan 21, (Reuters): Turkey initiated an agreement today to buy two West German-designed frigates, a West German embassy official said.

One of the Meko-200 vessels will be built at West Germany's Hamburg shipyards and the other at Turkey's naval yards at Golecek on Izmit Bay.

The financial aspects of the deal reached with a consortium of two West German companies, Thyssen and Blohm und Voss A.G., have not yet been finalised, the official said.

Turkey has already received four Meko frigates, two built in West Germany and two in Turkey, under a 1982 agreement.

The new vessels will join the Turkish Navy within five years, a Turkish military official told reporters. They would be equipped with electronic devices and weapons systems supplied from West Germany, the United States, Britain and Switzerland.

Economy hit by strikes

ALGIERS, Jan 21, (Reuters): Algeria's economy was hit by an average of 250 strikes a month during 1989, 25 per cent more than the previous year, Social Affairs Minister Mohamed Ghrib said today.

A new constitution approved last February guaranteed the right to strike and parliament is now discussing laws to regulate labour conflicts.

Ghrib, quoted by the Algerian news agency APS, told parliament that 1,433 strikes erupted during the last three months of 1988 after youth riots ushered in a programme of political liberalisation.



Safety test

Belgian Transport Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene tries a safety test at the Salon de L'Auto motor show in Brussels. The test is designed to show that a seatbelt holds the driver safely when a car rolls over (Reuters wirephoto)

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD eases against dollar

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate traded slightly lower against the US dollar ending the week at 291.32 fils compared with its week before last closing of 291.30 fils. The KD was higher against the Pound Sterling, ending the week at 480.39 fils compared with its week before last closing of 483.56 fils.

The KD was higher against the DM ending the week at 172.13 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.91 fils. The KD was lower against the SFR ending the week at 192.95 fils compared with its week before last closing of 192.21 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market report.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian Dinar ending the week at 429.68 fils compared with its week before last closing of 420.38 fils. The KD ended almost unchanged against most other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short-term interbank offer rates traded mixed within a narrow range over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week at 8.56 per cent — 8.62 per cent range compared with 8.50 per cent — 8.62 per cent range the week before last. Three-month interbank rates traded lower at one level of 8.56 per cent compared with 8.50 per cent — 8.62 per cent range for the week before last. Rates for longer periods traded higher around 8.43 per cent — 8.50 per cent range for both 6 and 12 months.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced two new T-bills, the first is 3-month T-bill issue No. (89) of KD75 million, with effective and maturity dates of Jan 24 and April 25 1990, respectively. The second issue is 6-month T-bill issue No. (90), of KD50 million with effective and maturity dates of Jan 24 and July 25, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices fluctuated last week, moving higher earlier in the week, on gains in technology stocks and programme buying and moving lower under the pressure of sell programmes, on news that IBM had reported lower-than-expected earnings and news that the US trade deficit widened to \$10.5 billion in November. However, prices rebounded later in the week, supported by technical buying. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2670 and closed higher at 2678, recording a gain of 11 points over the previous week's closing at 2669.

US dollar

The US dollar for most part of the week traded firm against the major currencies. The dollar's strength was backed by two main factors, the outbreak of violence in the Soviet Union's Azerbaijan republic, and the failure of the US Federal Reserve to ease its credit policy.

US trade deficit for the month of November rose 2.4 per cent from its previous month to \$10.5 billion which is the biggest trade shortfall in 1989. In a negative sign for US trade, exports fell by 2.7 per cent to \$30.2 billion while imports declined 1.4 per cent to \$40.7 billion. The November deficit was much higher than market expectations of around \$9.6 billion and for the first eleven months of 1989, the total trade deficit was \$101.74 billion versus \$107.72 billion a year earlier, while October trade deficit was revised up to \$10.25 billion from the previously reported \$10.20 billion.

Pound sterling

The pound opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6570/90 and closed lower at \$1.6430/40 compared to its

week before last closing at \$1.6600/10. News UK inflation held steady in December calmed worries that UK interest rates might have to go higher to counteract rising prices. The retail price index rose 0.3 per cent in December after rising 0.9 per cent in November giving a year-on-year rise of 7.7 per cent, unchanged from November.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 145.65/75 yen and closed the week lower at 145.05/05 yen compared to its week before last closing at 145.75/80 yen.

The yen continued to trade weak against the dollar despite Bank of Japan's intervention in the open money market. The bearish market sentiment for the yen could be attributed to two main factors, commercial demand for the dollar as well as active yen selling that was prompted by nervousness over the ailing local capital and equity markets.

The yen is seen staying vulnerable to political concern ahead of general elections and to the current weakness in yen-denominated assets. Apparently, investors will be reluctant to buy yen assets unless both stock and bond markets settle down, and investment capital looks unlikely to flow back to the yen. Accordingly the yen is not remain weak against the dollar and probably trading over the coming week around 145-146 yen to the dollar.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.7091/5/25 marks and closed the week lower at 1.7120/30 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.6865/75 marks. Firm W. German interest rates as well as fears over possible Bundesbank intervention kept the mark from falling significantly against the dollar.

French franc

The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 5.7805/35 FFR and closed lower at 5.8185/15 FFR, compared to its week before last closing at 5.7425/55 FFR. Industrial production rose 1.1 per cent in November after increasing a revised 1.2 per cent in October. French trade deficit narrowed to FFR 2.57 billion in November after a revised October deficit of FFR 8.77 billion.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.5120/30 SFR, compared to its week before last closing at 1.4980/90 SFR. The Swiss trade deficit widened in December to -761.6 million SFR from -538 million SFR in November.

Precious metals

Precious metals prices have traded in a narrow range last week, with no fresh influence apparent, apart from dollar fluctuations.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$411.50/412 and closed lower at \$409.75/410.25 recording a loss of \$5.75 over the previous week's closing at \$415.50/416. Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$5.25/27 and closed lower at \$5.21/23, recording a loss of 7 cents over the previous week's closing at \$5.38/5.40.

Platinum prices opened the week at \$498.30/499.50 and closed lower at \$495.50/496.50, recording a loss of \$9.50 over the previous week's closing at \$505/506.

Greek premier proposes drastic action for troubled state companies

ATHENS, Greece, Jan 21, (AP): Premier Kostas Karamanlis has proposed the drastic overhaul to troubled state companies and drawn the ire of workers in a bid to stop an annual \$700-million drain on the state budget.

He said Friday that non-viable state companies should be liquidated and shares in viable enterprises sold to private interests. He added that would mean retrenchment of about 10,000 employees, sparking a protest from the country's largest labour union.

Zolotas stressed that immediate action was needed, describing the ailing former private companies as "a gaping wound that threatens to become gangrenous and cut off the legs of the economy."

He said these companies had accumulated debts of 600 billion drachmas (\$3.5 billion) and that another 120 billion drachmas (\$700 million) would be added to this in 1990 if they were "kept alive by artificial means."

Troubled private companies were

taken over by the former socialist government in the '80s in a bid to make them viable. Despite several auctions none of the firms has been sold back to private interests.

The newspaper Ta Nea said yesterday that Zolotas' proposal affected 70 companies.

The General Confederation of Greek workers, or GSEE, said the proposal was in "complete opposition" to the government's stated objectives.

The GSEE, which boasts about 1.3 million members, has scheduled a nation-wide 24-hour strike on Thursday.

The prime minister is to discuss his proposal during the week with conservative, socialist and communist party leaders. He was appointed to head an all-party government after no party won a clear majority in Nov elections.

In presenting his policy to parliament in November, Zolotas pledged that viable state companies would be supported and that their ownership would not

change. He also said the interests of employees would be protected.

Zolotas also pledged to cut government spending, curb a 14.8 per cent inflation rate and reduce a public sector deficit estimated at \$14.7 billion.

On Friday he said the 10,000 retrenched workers would continue to receive their salaries from a special fund while being trained for other jobs.

Zolotas said big banking and investment organisations could function as intermediaries between the state and various domestic and foreign business interests, buying up 30-40 per cent of these enterprises and overhauling them.

He said that a foreign airline company was prepared to buy 20 per cent of Olympic Airways, Greece's national carrier, and assume the troubled airline's management.

"Of course, I don't know if this can materialise. I am just citing it as an example that indicates there are many possibilities for overhauling our economy,"

Zolotas told reporters.

Olympic Airways announced an accumulated debt of \$562 million last August.

Labour Minister Apostolos Karamanlis said yesterday that his ministry had not been informed of the proposed changes in the troubled state companies, and said he found it "inconceivable" that such decisions could be taken without his ministry being consulted.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry appealed to garbage collectors to end their strike and warned of severe health hazards from mountains of garbage rotting on the sidewalks of Athens, Salonica and other major cities.

A spokesman for the coalition government accused the strikers of "holding the nation's health hostage," while the socialist party accused the workers of "lacking all social conscience."

Conservative New Democracy party leader Constantine Mitsotakis said yesterday that he would support a call for the army to begin clearing up the streets.

The communist-led coalition of the left and progress appealed to the striking municipal workers to "consider the consequences for society as a whole," and termed the situation "explosively dangerous."

The conservatives, socialists and communists are members of the coalition government.

Over 60,000 tons of garbage have accumulated in Athens' streets since 17,000 temporary municipal workers went on strike on Jan 11, demanding contracts of permanent employment.

When the government gave in to their demand early on Thursday, 5,500 permanent employees went on strike to demand higher pay and benefits. They occupied city dumps, in effect blocking the end of the strike.

Despite the appeals, the workers said they will keep the dumps closed through Monday.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 21/1/90				
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
02	Rashid	KSA	4843150	
13	Koper Express	M. Bahar	2433881	
18	Nikolay Shchekin	Al Rashid	2422026	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT				
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
21/01	Hual Garmecia	AM Bahar	2459891	
21/01	Palma	Marafr	2465645	
22/01	Ibn Shubaid	KSA	4843150	
22/01	Queen Emerald	Marafr	2465645	
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT				
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
02	South Wind	Marafr Int	2465645	
09	Chantier Pride	ISA	2441860	
10	Handy Sailor	Al Rashid	2422026	
11	Jay Ganch	K/M/MC	2419814	
12	Sankto Heritage	SMS	4745471	
12	City of Beirut	BB Hassan	2433537	
13	Nova Cosmos	ISA	2441860	
VSL AT ANCHORAGE				
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
02	Princess Betty	RSMS	2423642	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT				
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
19/01	Princess Betty	RSMS	2423642	
20/01	Molda	Algh.S.Freight	2425532	
20/01	Rhein Express	M. Bahar	2465645	
26/01	Isabel	UASC	2461800	
28/01	New Oslo	S.A.S.Mannfr	4843150	
28/01	Compass	4846665		
Compiled by: Alghabban Barwli Shipping Co. W. L. Tel: 4842888/4843388 ext. 2628/2648 Fax No. 4845712, TLX 22054 BARKWL K.T.				

Filmmaker takes on General Motors in its birth place

NEW YORK. (Reuter): Once described as the worst place to live in America, the town of Flint in Michigan, home of General Motors Corp., the US number one carmaker, is at the centre of a new film exposing the follies of the American dream. "Roger And Me" chronicles a three-year quest by car worker's son Michael Moore to confront General Motors chairman Roger Smith about the loss of 35,000 jobs at GM plants in Flint and the effect of unemployment on the town's 150,000 people.

Released in the US last month, the rights to the highly-acclaimed "documentary" have been bought by Warner Brothers for \$3 million. But denouncing Smith — who denies that Moore ever sought to interview him — it has also been attacked by some critics who accuse Moore of distorting events. The film does not make clear that although based on fact, the footage was taken over a 10-year period and not limited to events surrounding the time when Moore is alleged to have stalked Smith. However, Moore comes off as a

master of the absurd in depicting what happened in Flint during those three years. In one scene, Flint — named as worst place to live in America — is set to be featured on a late-night TV news programme but the show is cancelled when the television equipment truck was stolen. In another vignette Flint spends millions of dollars on an "autoworld" theme park and a Hyatt Regency Hotel, both of which instantly go bankrupt. Ronald Reagan is shown dining with

12 unemployed GM workers at a local pizza parlour and a customer is seen walking away with the restaurant's cash box. But the film does not make clear that the luncheon apparently occurred in 1980 during Reagan's campaign to become president, or that the cash box was taken three days before his visit. Despite the flaws, the film's opening in December couldn't have come at a worse time for General Motors. Faced with slumping sales and ever-growing competition from Japanese companies, GM has recently shut

down several more plants, making thousands of workers idle. Moore — hailed by the New York Times as "an irrepressible new humourist in the tradition of Mark Twain" — feels no sympathy for GM and its monetary losses. "They should stop whining about all the competition. Just shut up and build a better car," he told Reuters. Thirty-five year-old Moore is also a writer and former editor of the anti-establishment Mother Jones magazine who was fired for refusing to run an article attacking the left-wing govern-

ment in Nicaragua. He helped finance his \$160,000 documentary with money won in a wonderful dismissal suit against the magazine, as well as profits made bingo games and the sale of his house. Despite Moore's mockery of revered symbols of America, the public does not seem to be taking offence. The film is doing well at the box office. It captures the underside of the decade's economic boom by zeroing in on home evictions and boarding-up storefronts in Flint, and in effect

mocks all corporate greed and the materialism of the 1980s. And it also offers an ominous glimpse of what may be in store for the 1990s in towns dependent on industries that can't keep up with the competition. "The Reagan-Bush era has been a lot of 'don't worry, be happy,'" Moore said. "We should be worrying a little more. We've lost a lot of ground in the '80s, a lot of time." "If the rest of the country can learn from Flint."

Shahira Mehrez blends the old with the new

Fashion from Egypt's provinces

By Katia Sabet

MUSEUM or fashion house? One hesitates for a few minutes when entering Shahira Mehrez's shop in Cairo. Straight out of an orientalist painting of the 19th century when Western artists strived to depict the magic of Arab interiors and landscapes, it feels like a different world.

As soft lighting pierces the carved-wood shutters that adorn the windows, fabrics, potteries, "hubbly bubbly" water pipes, copper ware, miniatures and furniture of inlaid mother-of-pearl set the tone. Deep in a corner a majestic baroque sofa saved from an uncertain fate in an obscure shop in Alexandria beckons to let the visitor look comfortably at precious fabrics cascading over the side of a large wooden chest. Further in, the bulb of a glass distiller used to make rose water glows softly.

These rooms, three floors up in the Dokki area of Cairo, are the domain of Mehrez, who has dedicated the past two decades to collecting, preserving and producing clothes, ornaments and objects which used to be part of daily life in rural Egypt.

Mehrez, now in her early forties, is away but work continues in the shop where she brought

also collects traditional arts and crafts and who has worked with Mehrez for a number of years.

people and tourists. She began collecting them, and found out about a style that local women

deter the fashion-conscious who passed through Cairo. After opening three shops in Cairo where she also sold jewellery and artifacts, Mehrez



Shahira Mehrez

together tributes to Egypt's past. Her associate is Nour Hakim, 36, originally from Lebanon, who

Says Hakim: "Shahira was born into a family of landowners in the Nile Delta, and since her childhood, she was fascinated by the clothes worn by the peasants in the fields or at home. One day she felt like wearing one of these dresses made of shimmering fabric worn by country women. She discovered that the pattern is really simple, yet very flattering to the female figure. It makes most women look slim and gives them a sort of majestic air, particularly when they walk."

Hakim explains that Mehrez later became interested in the traditional garb worn by men all over Egypt. To the surprise of the local peasant folk, she would go and browse around in the markets and fairs all over the Delta area, in the oasis of the Western desert, in Upper Egypt and in Nubia. This, says Hakim, is how Mehrez discovered that the cut of women's dresses is essentially the same all over the country. One piece of fabric reaching down almost to the ankles with a rounded piece added at the chest, and a round collar and sleeves that puff at the wrist. From north to south, the pattern is the same, except for one detail: the breast piece and trimmings around it. The embroidery of the breast piece are what distinguishes a dress from Giza, near Cairo, to that worn by women in the desert oasis of Siwa or the town of Assiut in central Egypt.

To Mehrez, the dresses stand as a symbol of the rural Egypt that is so often ignored by city

call "embrace". It occurred to her that not only the word but also the style came from the French word "embrace", which is often used to describe a type of high-waisted dresses with puffy sleeves worn during the reign of Napoleon I, or Napoleon III.

It appears that when France's Empress Eugenie inaugurated the Suez Canal in 1869, she arrived with a whole retinue of French ladies who caused a revolution in Egyptian fashions that affected even rural areas. Prints and drawings from the first half of the 19th century, before the Empress' visit to Egypt, show that women used to wear much simpler garments that looked like a sort of sack, often made of striped fabric with straight sleeves that were not gathered at the wrist.

In 1968, Mehrez set up a workshop in Cairo where she started producing not only women's dresses from old patterns, but also traditional garments for men. It was an immediate hit and in the early 70s, men and women alike were going to cocktail parties in Rome, Paris, New York and Rio de Janeiro wearing the Egyptian peasant's dress with wide sleeves and flowing fabric. Also hugely successful were the dresses made in the style worn by the bedouin women of the Sinai desert in eastern Egypt, with thousands of tiny mother-of-pearl buttons sewn on the front and intricate, colourful cross-stitch embroidery. The high cost of these dresses did seem to not

Adds Hakim: "During her travels, Mehrez discovered the beauty of what are usually considered humble, ordinary objects. Along with traditional jewellery from Nubia or Siwa, she picked up all sorts of artifacts like baskets from the oases, embroideries from El Arish (on the northern Mediterranean coast of Sinai) or carpets made in the desert. She developed a passion for what she calls popular art and decided she wanted people to learn about it, appreciate it and use it in their daily lives."

Pursuing her goal Mehrez decided to create a small folklore museum to try to preserve some objects that are abandoned. "The life of the Egyptian peasant has changed a great deal in the modern age," Hakim notes. "Women who had used solid copper pendants like their mothers and grandmothers traded them for easy-to-clean aluminium; young women who come up to the cities to find work soon give up their traditional dress for Western-style garments... Nubian women whose pride had always been their heavy silver jewellery now prefer gold because it is worth more, but it cannot be used to make the traditional style of jewellery."

In the course of her travels, Mehrez met Michel Pastor and his wife Evelyn, a couple from Switzerland who have been living for years in the desert on the edge of the large oasis some 120km west of Cairo called Fayoum. They have become famous in Cairo for the pottery they make. Their meeting with Mehrez was the beginning of a strong friendship that brought together both the old and the new, the East with the West. Michel Pastor designed the interior of Mehrez' folklore museum which is due to open soon, in a space adjacent to her Dokki shop.



Messner (right) discusses merits of the special food with a dietician.

A walk to save Antarctic

By Clare Pedrick

NEARLY 80 years after Roald Amundsen planted the Norwegian flag at the South Pole, an Italian and a German plan to be the first men to cross the Antarctic from coast to coast on foot.

Reinhold Messner, one of the world's top mountaineers, and Arved Fuchs, a specialist in polar expeditions, recently started their trek of 3,500 kilometers (2,200 miles) entirely alone, across the coldest expanse of territory on this planet. The two explorers decided to make the crossing without the help of huskies, the heavy-coated dogs that are traditionally used in Arctic land travel, and without an airplane to monitor their progress. The idea, says the 45-year-old Messner, is to push human endurance to the limit and to draw attention to the importance of preserving the Antarctic as the world's last wilderness.

"If you use motorised sleds, heated cabins, airplanes and other technological gadgets, all you are doing is creating the very deceptive impression that the Antarctic is a place that can be conquered," he said. "Our idea is not to find out which is the most convenient method of transport but to understand the largest desert of ice on this earth in all its complexities and with all the risks that result from the fact that we are tackling it with nothing more than human resources."

In choosing the Antarctic, Messner and Fuchs, both energetic campaigners for the environment, hoped to gain public support for the idea of turning the area into a giant national park. The Antarctic Treaty, a pact signed by 20 nations that bans the use of the area for nuclear testing and radioactive waste disposal and mandates the protection of living resources, will expire in 1991. Many environmentalists fear that without treaty protection the Antarctic will be vulnerable to commercial exploitation.

The Messner-Fuchs expedition was set to begin at Berkner Island, in the northwestern Antarctic. The two men flew there from Chile. Their goal was McMurdo Sound, at the south of a continent that is almost as large as the United States and Australia combined, and they hoped to reach the South Pole in time for Christmas. After that, it will be a race against time to finish the trek before the average Antarctic winter sets in at the end of February.

Even in summer the Antarctic is known as one of the most hostile territories on earth, a desolate wasteland of ice where the temperature often drops below minus 35 degrees centigrade (minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit) and where blizzards and intense freezing winds can last for weeks at a time. In winter, temperatures of minus 80 degrees centigrade are not unusual.

Messner, who was born in the mountainous Dolomite region of northern Italy, admitted to being scared by the challenge. "Thinking of this next adventure I have the same worries and terrible fear that I had as a young boy when I made my first climbs up the Dolomites," he said. "For me, this journey means conquering other areas of

myself, which so far have not been put to the test." Lean, bearded and with the strong accent of one who grew up near the border with Austria, Messner is best known as a mountaineer, famous as the only man ever to climb all 14 of the world's highest mountains without oxygen supplies. During a career that spans 25 years he has scaled peaks from Mount Everest to Kilmangaro. Between expeditions he lives with his companion, Sabine, and their 2-year-old daughter in a castle perched, appropriately enough, on the side of a mountain in Italy's Alto Adige region. This latest adventure represents a new departure. "It seemed that mountains had no more secrets to unfold. I've solved all the problems there are to be solved when it comes to mountaineering," he said.

Four years passed after Messner first had the idea of the Antarctic trek. Two years ago, as a kind of trial run, he walked 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) from one side of Tibet to the other, crossing through forests and climbing the peaks that stood in his path. But the Antarctic expedition has posed special problems: finding sponsors to underwrite expenses totalling nearly US \$750,000, and, almost as difficult, finding the right person to share four months of what are bound to be very stressful conditions. The man whom he chose, 36-year-old West German Arved Fuchs, is an old hand at surviving sub-zero temperatures. He once crossed Greenland on foot and recently returned from an expedition to the North Pole. Fuchs is also an expert sailor, with a background in the German merchant fleet; his navigational skills will be of major importance during the blinding whiteouts that are a feature of arctic climates.

The two men planned to make most of their journey to McMurdo Sound on cross-country skis, each pulling a sled carrying their provisions. Weight is the key to the whole expedition. Each explorer has a maximum allowance of 80 kilograms (176 pounds), including his sled and skis. "If we took the same bulk of supplies as Scott and Amundsen we wouldn't have a hope of succeeding," said Messner. "Instead, we're taking about half what they did, even if it means exposing ourselves to much greater risks." (Amundsen was the first man to reach the South Pole, in December 1911. His feat was repeated by British explorer Robert Scott in January 1912).

Organising food for the journey was one of the major challenges. Messner and Fuchs will make just three supply stops, each one at a scientific research station, where they will have to load up with enough provisions to last five weeks. In the harsh Antarctic conditions their daily intake of food should be a massive 6,000 calories. With this in mind, a Milan firm that specialises in developing foodstuffs for expeditions designed a special menu composed of high-energy chocolate and cereal bars, tablets and capsules of concentrated vitamins and mineral oils, and plenty of pemmican, a concentrated mixture of dried lean meat and melted fat originally created by North American Indians.

Turkey aims to circle globe

VOT to reach 35 million

ANKARA. (Reuter): When Turkish Radio announced the death of national hero Mustafa Kemal Ataturk on a bleak November day in 1938, no one could be sure the puny 25 kilowatt (kw) transmitter would carry the shortwave message to Europe.

Fifty-one years after its first overseas broadcast, in English, French and German, the Voice of Turkey (VOT) almost circles the globe.

Listeners can tune in to their choice of 15 languages ranging from English to Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Albanian, Romanian, Urdu, and Serbo-Croatian. "One of our primary aims is to make Turkey known around the world, to transmit an objective and accurate image of the country," said Reyman Somer, overseas broadcasts director of state-run Turkish Radio and Television.

"We have to tell people where Turkey is, how we dress, our government structure, our cuisine, everything."

Under a 34.6 million-dollar contract between the Turkish PTT (Post, Telephones and Telecommunications) and Switzerland's Asea Brown Boveri signed last November, VOT hopes to get five of the most modern 500 kw shortwave transmitters in two years.

They will help the radio beam a stronger signal to some 2.5 million expatriate Turkish workers, more than 1.5 million of them in Europe and the rest in Australia, Saudi Arabia and

North Africa. It will also carry the Voice of Turkey to some estimated 35 million people around the world speaking languages of Turkish origin such as Azeri.

Somer told Reuters the station now had two 250 kw and one 500 kw transmitter, not enough for strong reception worldwide.

The station's priority is to serve migrant Turkish workers and keep alive their cultural and social links with home.

"They have deep yearnings for anything from home that is difficult for us to fully appreciate here," Somer said.

"We try to give them everything from home news to traffic reports during summer holidays, music, a children's club, new customs regulations and early morning recitations of the Holy Quran." Turkey's population is 99 per cent Muslim.

"We welcome all letters, even angry ones. Some Turks even take time from home leave to come and visit us here at the station and that is what we really appreciate," he said.

Housewives from Britain write to the VOT for more Turkish recipes. Danish listeners request Turkish stamps.

Nostalgic fans from the United States ask for songs recorded by British rock singer Cat Stevens before he gave up the glittering music world to become the Muslim Yusuf Islam. His wife is Turkish.

"Some people have the impression that overseas radio broadcasts are supposed to dab-

ble in espionage, with secret messages and political propaganda. Probably because most of occupied Europe used to listen to the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) in World War Two.

"Although we do give political news, we adhere strictly to official foreign policy and always consult the foreign ministry to rule out compromising broadcasts," Somer said.

Until the overthrow of hard-line communist leader Todor Zhivkov last November, Somer said, Bulgaria was the only country from which no listener's letters arrived.

He said special stations had jammed VOT broadcasts to Bulgaria's estimated 1.5 million ethnic Turks, banned from using the Turkish language under a campaign of record assimilation begun in 1984.

"A very rare letter from Bulgaria was brought to us by a driver into whose hands the envelope was wordlessly slipped by an ethnic Turk as the driver made a brief roadside stop."

A staff of 230 run the services from a five-story block in central Ankara.

But the new transmitters will be set up in Emirler south of Ankara, in what PTT officials say will be one of the world's most modern stations.

The only Chinese translator on VOT, who reads out his texts, has to work by Longhand. "We don't have a typewriter with Chinese characters," Somer said.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

New treatment for varicose veins

QUESTION: My legs look terrible. They are crisscrossed with many unsightly varicose veins, which I have in both legs. I understand that a treatment is available that does not require surgery for the removal of the veins. Do you know of any such treatment? How does it work?

ANSWER: I think you're alluding to a type of treatment called "compression sclerotherapy," which is useful for treating superficial varicose veins. A sclerosing solution (used to thicken walls of the vein and obliterate it by causing it to collapse) of 3 per cent sodium tetradecyl sulfate is injected into the veins. Anywhere from three to 10 injections can be made into each leg. After the injections, the leg is tightly bandaged. These bandages are removed only after the medication has had a chance to act.

If the varicose veins are small and not too prominent, many people can be satisfied with the results obtained from surgical elastic stockings that can control varicose veins in many individuals. Using these stockings properly, putting them on each morning while still in bed, when the veins have diminished during the night, and wearing them faithfully all day every day may be just enough to allow the veins to return to normal size and function. These stockings are frequently used after most types of treatments for varicose veins, to help in healing and maintaining good results.

Incidentally, even with surgical stripping, where varicose veins are actually removed, between 33 per cent and 45 per cent of sclerotherapy for residual or recurrent varicose veins. Although the cosmetic results in each of these procedures

may not be all you desire, treatment can prevent the condition from progressing.

QUESTION: I frequently seem to suffer from dry eyes that bother me most after I've been asleep and try to open them. There are no crusts and my eyes don't appear red or inflamed. The problem is gradually getting worse. Is there anything you can tell me to help?

ANSWER: You should definitely see your physician for a personal opinion, but here is my guess as to what will happen. He or she will probably prescribe eye drops (artificial tears) to help decrease the dryness, but also should measure your tear production to check for a chronic inflammatory disorder called Sjogren's syndrome. A dry mouth is the other common sign, so your doctor also would evaluate your salivary gland secretions.

For some people with Sjogren's, these are the only mucous membranes involved, while for others there is dryness at various other sites on the body. Another common characteristic of the disorder is arthritis or joint inflammation, occurring in about one-third of patients. Swollen parotid glands, which are usually firm, but moderately tender, also can be found in about one-third of the patients with this syndrome.

Approximately one in 2,000 individuals suffer from Sjogren's syndrome, and it tends to affect women over 40 more than others. The cause is unknown, but is considered by many experts to be an abnormality of the immune system. Treatment is aimed basically at increasing lubrication of the eyes and mouth. You can also obtain more information and help by writing to the Sjogren Foundation, 382 Main Street, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050.

QUESTION: I have a large, ugly swelling in my eyelid. When it first started, it looked just like a sty. Although it doesn't hurt now, it keeps on growing, looking worse all the time. Should I see a doctor? What is the treatment for this problem?

ANSWER: It sounds to me like what you have is a chalazion, and you should definitely seek medical treatment. A chalazion occurs when one or more of the tiny meibomian glands in the eyelid become infected and blocked. These glands produce a waxy substance that keep the edges of the eyelids waterproof. If this "sty" isn't treated or doesn't heal by itself, the glands remain clogged, the mass continues to grow and becomes a chalazion.

Initially, your doctor may suggest a treatment of hot compresses and topical antibiotic ointments. If the problem persists for more than six weeks, some minor surgery is indicated. An incision is carefully made on the underside of the lid followed by a curettage, a surgical scraping or cleaning of the contents of the mass, which now resembles a cyst. Extreme care must be taken when incisions are made and cleaning is performed since any rough edges left from the procedure could scrape and irritate the cornea.

Once the mass has been removed, the lid rapidly heals with no evidence of the chalazion remaining. Although the procedure is a delicate one, it can be performed in a doctor's office without any time lost from work or expensive hospital charges. The sooner you see your doctor, the sooner you will be rid of the bumpy eyelid that is causing you concern.

QUESTION: A persistent buzzing in my ear has become a constant torment. It started about five years ago (I am now 64)

and has become steadily worse. I'm sure there must be something to help drive it away. Can you help?

ANSWER: Nearly 36 million Americans experience "tinnitus," the name for ringing in the ears or other sounds, such as buzzing, humming or clicking noises.

The causes of tinnitus can vary. The nerve ending in your ears may be damaged as a result of age or of exposure to loud noises. Other ear problems, like infections (which may include a hearing loss), could be to blame for your problem. Tinnitus can also be caused by such disorders as allergies, high or low blood pressure, or diabetes, or as a side effect of certain drugs (aspirin, for instance).

Your doctor can run tests to try to determine the cause. Unless tinnitus is the result of a specific illness or condition, however, treatment may be impossible. You might try different devices that mask the sounds you're hearing by using "white noise," a soft, rushing kind of sound like the sound of the surf. Certain hearing aids called "maskers" also can provide some relief by using the same principle to mask out the sounds in your head.

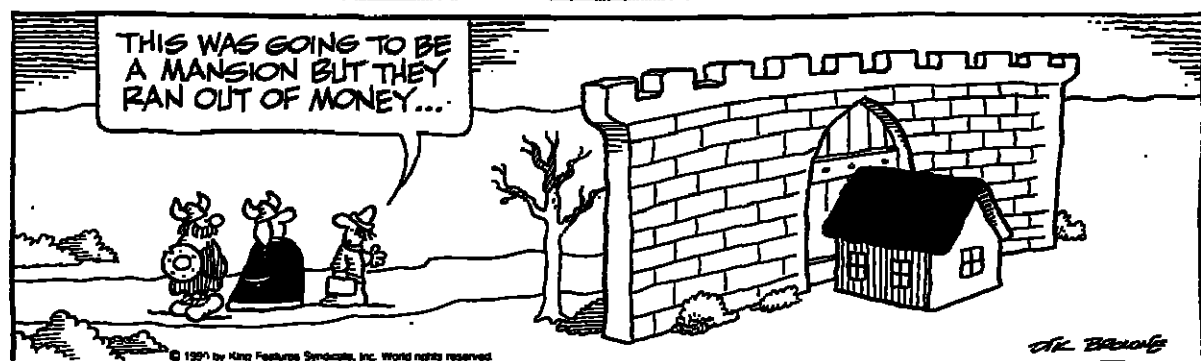
Though provoking at times, the source of this unwanted sound is not life-threatening, and a good mental attitude can help you avoid unnecessary anxiety. You also can help yourself by staying in good shape, avoiding stimulants like caffeine and tobacco, getting enough rest, and, in the knowledge that there is little you can do about it, ignore the buzz that is tormenting you.

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BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



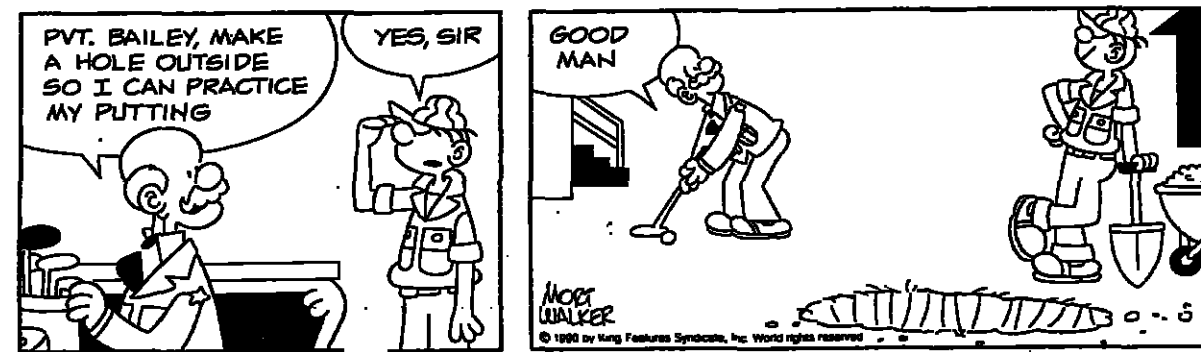
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AGATHA CRUMM — By Dik Browne



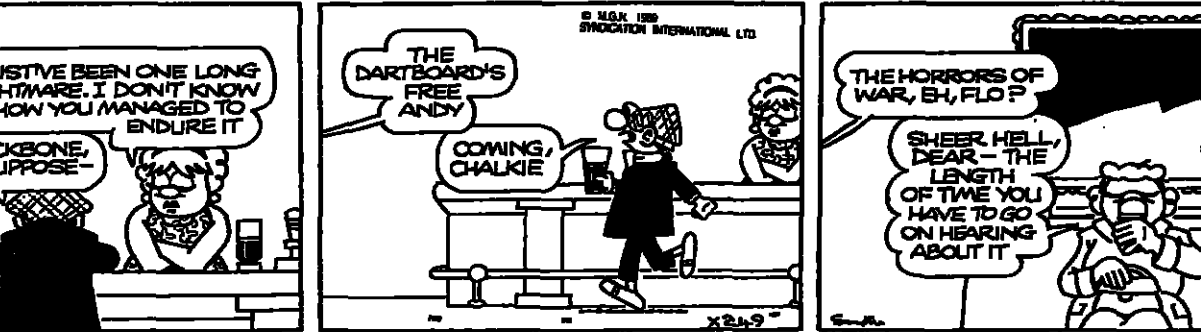
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THE BARD — By Dik Browne



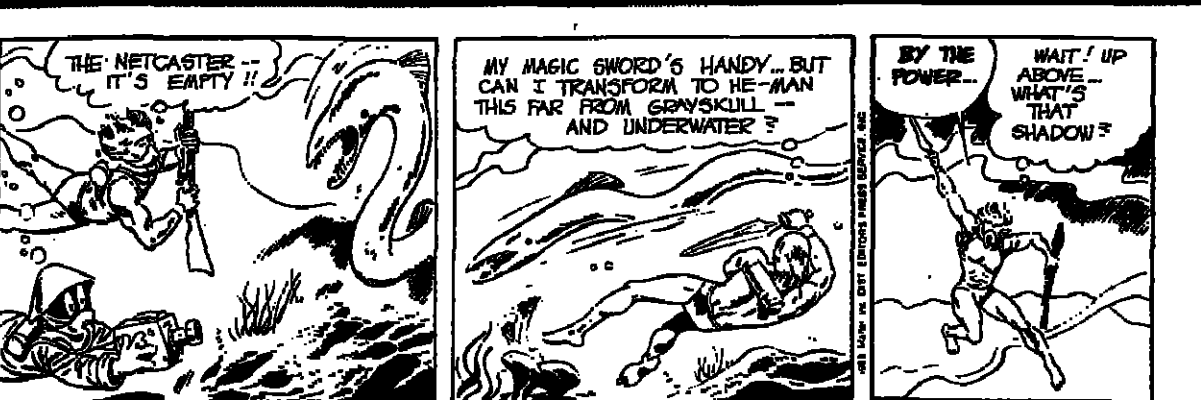
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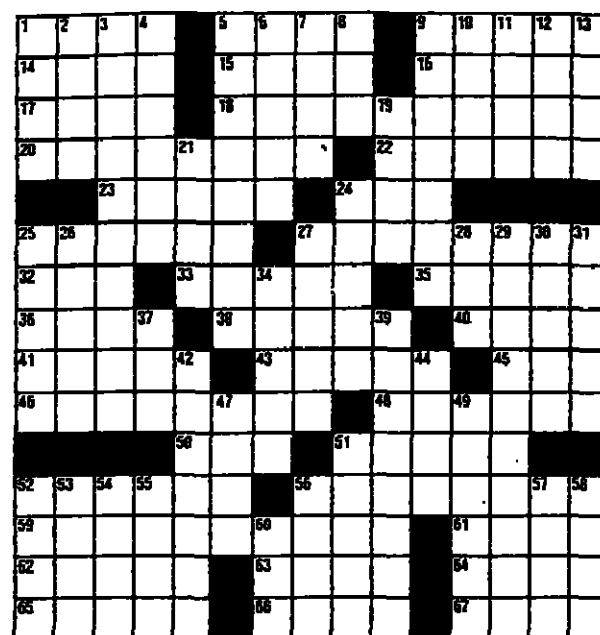
THE BARD — By Dik Browne



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TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Skiers' mecca

5 Partner of ruin

9 Rio de la —

14 Aquatic bird

15 Assam

16 His name is

17 — 'act

18 Timpani part

20 Languor

22 Sherwood's —

23 Sheeplike

24 Dernier —

25 Quaker

27 Oddball

32 Adjective for

33 Stern look

35 Swap

36 Fateful day for

38 Horatian

40 Blackbirds

41 Heron's cousin

43 Mei-ling —

45 Crude dwelling

46 Curb

48 Heavenly, to a

50 Numbers on

51 Grieve

52 Main Street

56 Bridgetown is

59 Haunted-house

61 Unhurried

62 British physicist

Francis —

1877-1945

63 — fix

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mina, mo

DOWN

1 Made a perfect

2 Like a certain

3 Undistinguished

4 Have ambition

5 Bring back

6 Mountain crest

7 Slicker

8 Crazy —

9 Emulate a seer

10 Site of a

Napoleonic

victory

11 Re fields

12 German: Abbr.

13 "— and the

Man": Shaw

play

19 Milan money

21 Half a

celebrated

panda

24 Guiding

principle

25 Risky

investment

26 Raised

strip

27 Emulate Bing

28 Macaque

29 Mendicant

30 Hatred

31 Peevish

34 Orbital point

37 Collection

39 Supported

42 Neptune's

emblem

44 Food,

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52 Test for Jrs.

53 Lhasa —

54 Gam or

Tushingham

55 Brouhahas

56 Eliot's Adam

57 Lady Chaplin

58 Clean the deck

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79 Uninteresting

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81 Weaken

82 Uninteresting

83 French or

melba

84 Weaken

85 Uninteresting

86 French or

melba

87 Weaken

88 Uninteresting

89 French or

melba

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

SHOW PARTNER THE WAY

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 6 3
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ K Q J 10
 ♣ 8 5 3

WEST
 ♠ 2
 ♥ A J 8 5 4
 ♦ 8 5 3
 ♣ 10 6 4 2

EAST
 ♠ Q 10 7 3 2
 ♥ A 9 6 4 2
 ♦ 9 7
 ♣ A K Q J

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 ♠ 4
 4 ♠ 5 ♥ 6 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Some might consider it the height of foolishness to bid a slam off two cashing aces. However, when the aces are split between the defenders, it is not always easy to get them. East-West almost did well on this hand. Their preemptive tactics forced South to guess at a high level, and he went wrong. Unfortunately, the defenders "forgot" to cash their

tricks. Obviously, South would have done better to double five hearts (North-South can inflict a four-trick defeat if the defense is accurate), but South was sure he would find one ace with partner for his opening bid, and he didn't want to lose a vulnerable slam.

West led the ace of hearts and East, anxious to get a shift, followed with a discouraging two. West gazed long and hard at his cards, but found no inspiration there. Eventually, he shrugged and shifted to a club, and declarer heaved a sigh of relief. He drew trumps, discarded his diamond on the king of hearts and chalked up his small slam.

Put the blame for the debacle on East. Since it was obvious to all that there were no more tricks for the defense in hearts, East should have taken the opportunity to signal he wanted a diamond, not a club.

How could he do that? By playing a high heart, preferably the queen, to ask for the higher of the other two side suits. But wouldn't that be begging for a heart continuation? Normally, yes. But when a particular defense is known to be futile, the card played becomes a suit-preference signal!



"Do you take trade-ins?"

YOUR STARS



Aries
 March 21 - April 20
 You will have plenty to do and should try to make a plan of action. Make sure you do not eat more than you need to maintain your weight. Avoid using force. Be gentle.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20
 You are liable to get into bad habits, so watch out. You should not try to do too many things all at once. Avoid introduction complications into your personal life. Be generous.



Libra
 Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
 You will tend to find yourself in doubt and should do all you can to reassure yourself. Do not pamper yourself but nor should you try to live a more spartan existence than you have to. Take just a little more time to exercise.



Capricorn
 Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
 Something that has been causing you difficulty will now prove to be much easier. You will be tempted to spend money on pointless pursuits and you should restrain yourself. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 29.



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 You will tend to be rather resentful and should try to restrain yourself. You should take better care of your health. Do not try to use force where persuasion has failed. Be respectful.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug. 21
 A little time spent tidying up will prove to be well worthwhile. There will be some distractions but if you concentrate hard you will be able to avoid them. Make sure you do not eat more sweet things than you know you should. Be reliable.



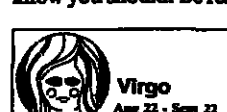
Scorpio
 Oct. 23 - Nov. 23
 You will be able to make the right choice but only if you use your intelligence. Nothing will proceed quite as quickly as you would have wished. A difficulty will not prove as formidable as you had feared. Be courteous.



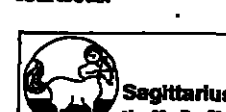
Aquarius
 Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
 You should try to welcome change rather than being opposed to it. You should not allow yourself to be influenced by "sales talk". Do not expect to have all things your own way. Be moderate.



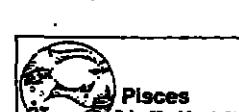
Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 You will not find it easy to keep calm but you should make the effort. Something you have been learning will now show its full effectiveness. You should allow a little more margin for error. Be truthful.



Virgo
 Aug. 23 - Sept. 23
 This is not time to be too adventurous nor should you trust too much to luck. A friendly conversation will help to clear up a misunderstanding. Make sure you do not take too much for granted. Be tolerant.



Sagittarius
 Nov. 23 - Dec. 23
 You will find it easier to come to a decision and it likely to be the right one. Do not stand quite so much on your dignity. Make sure you do not break a promise. Be a little more patient.



Pisces
 Feb. 20 - March 20
 You will have something to be pleased about but there is no excuse for being snug. Do not try to delay what you know should be done now. Avoid allowing litter to accumulate. Be respectful.



"Of course it's empty! I had to hide everything."



"We haven't seen a duck for two hours!"

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Africans will not boycott Commonwealth Games

No England ban call: Ramsamy



England diver Tony Ali stretches his teammate, Jason Statham's back (front), before a training session for the Games. (Reuter wirephoto)



New Zealand policemen stand guard at the entrance to the Mount Smart Stadium. (Reuter wirephoto)

AUCKLAND, Jan 21, (Reuters): A leading anti-apartheid campaigner today ruled out any threat of an African boycott of the Commonwealth Games and said there would be no call for England's expulsion.

Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), a London-based anti-apartheid lobby group, said the Games would not be affected by a current rebel England cricket tour of South Africa.

"There are no moves for a boycott and I don't think the expulsion of England is on," he said after arriving in Auckland. "My information is that there will be no action to disturb these Games. All the countries are here to pay homage to the work done by New Zealand."

His comments followed media speculation that African countries, angered by the rebel tour, would call for England's expulsion from the Games or repeat their boycott of the 1986 Edinburgh Games if the call were not heeded.

The speculation was dismissed as "wild and irresponsible" by David Dixon, secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), yesterday.

However, Ramsamy did not discount the possibility that African nations would take some unspecified action against the English sports authorities.

"Most African countries feel England isn't doing enough against South African sports contacts except for mouthing platitudes," he said.

As African teams have gathered in Auckland for the Games which will open on Wednesday there have been indications that they may decide to curb future sporting contacts with English teams.

Ramsamy said the African nations were seeking a means of halting the sequence of rebel visits to South Africa by cricket,

rugby and athletics teams.

Referring to the current England cricket tour, he condemned violent South African police action against anti-apartheid protesters when the team arrived in Johannesburg on Friday.

"The whole world is upset by their arrival and the problem was magnified by the action of the police, which created unprovoked chaos," Ramsamy said.

England's Sebastian Coe, twice the Olympic 1,500 metres champion, described the rebel cricketers as "a group of mercenaries," at a news conference today.

"This tour doesn't represent mainstream British sport," he said. "The majority of people back home are appalled by it. We are ashamed of it as most of the African nations."

Coe, who has been selected as a candidate for Britain's ruling Conservative Party in the next general election, said it was a shame that "yet again" a rebel tour had been scheduled to coincide with a major championship.

Australia's swimmers, far from repentant about the bitter rivalry with Canada which has turned the pool at previous Games into a psychological war zone, are preparing for an even bigger battle of wills in Auckland.

"It is great," said Australian head coach Don Talbot of the frenzied team chanting, clenched fists and gamesmanship which both sides employed in an attempt to psyche each other out at the Brisbane Games eight years ago.

"That is one of the ways of winning it," Talbot said today. "I don't look on it as something negative but as something positive — young people getting themselves ready to compete."

Canada, one of the prime exponents of one-upmanship in the days of the volatile Victor

Davis, had hoped to play down the psychological warfare this time for the sake of their young and less-experienced team.

But Talbot said the Australians planned no let-up. "If you go to the Northern Hemisphere they all do it, they have done it for years, and I think it is time we did a lot more," he said. "Where's the harm in it?"

Talbot declined to give details of the Australians' plans but previous teams have employed loud hollers, air horns, drums and send-ups of the Haka, the Maori war dance.

In 1982 the four men of the "Mean machine," as their relay team were dubbed, appeared for their race with shaved heads in a move, they freely admitted, designed to unnervise their opponents.

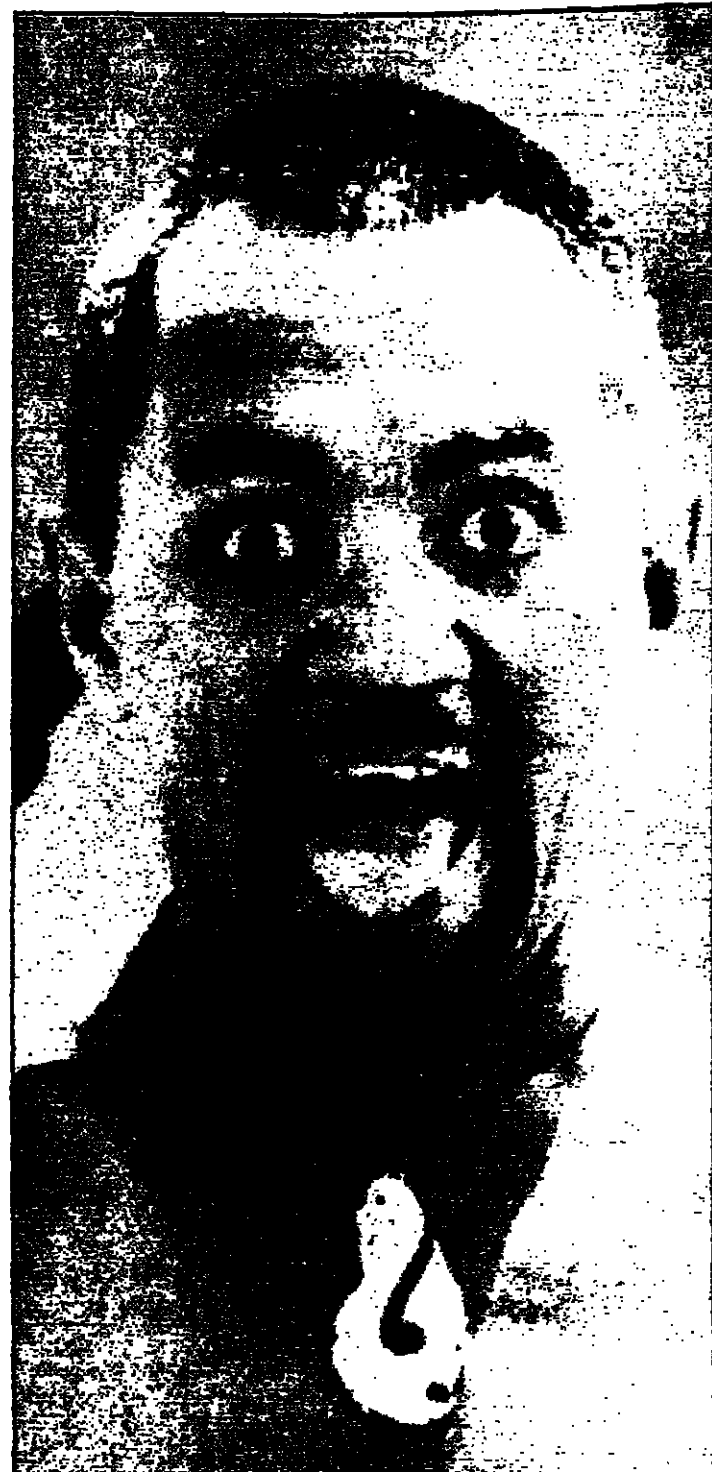
Canada's swimmers in the past have been responsible for some of the most provocative acts at the pool.

At the Edinburgh Games four years ago a flag-draped Canadian threatened to soak Scottish officials with a bucket of water after feelings between the two teams ran high during a close race.

Canadian Ben Johnson, officially stripped of his world records in the 100-metre and indoor 50- and 60-metre dashes, is likely to lose his Commonwealth 100-metre record Tuesday.

Johnson's name was erased from the record books by the International Amateur Athletic Federation in Tokyo Saturday following the sprinter's admitted use of performance-enhancing drugs from 1981 until he tested positive at the Seoul Olympics on Sept 24, 1988.

His 100-metre world record time of 9.83 seconds set at the 1987 world championships also stood as the Commonwealth record, but officials said this was likely to be erased Tuesday.



Murray MacDonald, one of the 1,700 Maori warriors performing at the opening ceremony of the Games, yells a war cry prior to rehearsals at Mount Smart Stadium. (Reuter wirephoto)



Sharon Davis of England puts on her swimming goggles before her training session for the Commonwealth Games. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bungee jumpers to plunge off roof

AUCKLAND, Jan 21, (Reuters): Few athletes at the Commonwealth Games will experience a greater thrill than those who make a 40-metre headlong plunge off the roof of Mount Smart Stadium.

Exponents of bungee jumping, New Zealand's latest madcap craze, leap head first from terrifying heights with their feet attached to a strong length of elastic which prevents them hitting the ground — just.

Bungee jumping will feature in the Games opening ceremony on Wednesday and a number of visiting athletes have already watched in disbelief as various locals have flung themselves off a specially-hired crane projecting over the harbour.

The Bungee Bats Ltd tour company, one of half a dozen New Zealand firms licensed to operate commercial bungee jumping, also has a permit to send paying customers plummeting from the roof of Mount Smart Stadium, which will stage the opening ceremony and more conventional athletics events.

"Jumping off Mount Smart is so much more exciting than jumping over water. Psychologically, it's so much harder," said Bungee Bats operator Vicky Thornton.

"When you're on the edge you're looking out on to the whole middle of the arena — it's so atmospheric, it's incredible. It feels really high."

Bungee Bats hired the harbour-side crane from which it offers not-so-cheap thrills at 48 dollars (\$59) a throw. Party rates are available.

"I didn't have time to scream," American tourist Ed McGary said after a 33-metre dive off the crane. As the elastic reached full stretch his head was dunked in the murky waters of Auckland harbour.

"Why did I do it? I still don't know. When I got here and heard about it it was one of the things I had to do," McGary said.

A number of visiting competitors wanted to jump but Thornton said their coaches ordered them to wait until after the Games.

Less cautious were several crews from the Whitbread Round-World yacht race who will sail from Auckland next month on the fourth leg of their voyage.

Bob McCarthy, mastman on NCB Ireland, was the first to fling himself from the crane as shipmates and spectators chanted a count-down to boost his courage.

"Excellent. Brilliant. It's fantastic," McCarthy said after being untrapped. "Now I want to do the big one in Hamilton," he added. From a bridge over the Waikato River the most intrepid jumpers can leap 53 metres.

Not all the crew were so keen, but skipper Joe English decided to get tough. "I made them do it — it's the modern equivalent of walking the plank," he said.

Thornton insisted there was no risk, although one of Bungee Bats' own operators had an accident last October when his harness was wrongly strapped. He broke both legs and a number of other bones but is recovering.

This was the second accident in New Zealand, but neither was fatal.

Not so in the Pacific territory of New Caledonia, where bungee jumping originated. Intrepid souls tied vines to their feet and threw themselves from trees and cliffs — sometimes with disastrous results.

Van de Burg retains lead

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands, Jan 21, (AP): Dutchman Ben van de Burg yesterday maintained his lead in the overall standings of the 1990 European Speedskating Championships by winning the 1,500 metres in one minute and 54.00 seconds.

Michael Hadschieff of Austria now holds second place in the standings, and Tomas Gustafson of Sweden third.

Gustafson finished in second place in the 1,500 meter event, clocking 1:54.04, with Leo Visser of the Netherlands coming in third in 1:54.65.

The women's tournament was heavily dominated by East Germans, with Gunda Kleemann, Constance Moser and Jacqueline Boerner holding the first three places in the standings. Moser and Kleemann were joint winners in the 1,500 metres, clocking 2:05.91. Kleemann also won the 3,000 metres in 4:20.32 with Moser as runner-up in 4:22.37.

The men's 10,000 metres and the women's 5,000 metre event are scheduled for the championships' last day, today.

Sheehan takes five-shot lead in Golf classic

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, Jan 21, (Reuters): Patty Sheehan cut through a second day of blustery winds to shoot a three-under-par 68 yesterday and take a five-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$500,000 Jamaica Classic.

Sheehan, who shot a 69 on the 6,191-yard Tryall Club course in windy conditions on Friday, shot one better despite gusts up to 48 kph for a 36-hole total of 137.

Lynn Connelly, who struggled to a 74 in the opening round, matched Sheehan's 68 to stand alone in second place at even-par 142.

First-round leader Liselotte Neumann of Sweden soared to a nine-over-par 80 and was 11 shots off the pace at 148.

Sheehan was the only player in the field to string successive sub-par rounds under the difficult conditions. "The wind was similar to yesterday," said Sheehan.

Connelly said her preparation for this opening event of the LPGA Tour had helped her.

"I have been practising in Florida for the last two weeks and it has been windy there. I think that has helped me tremendously," Connelly said.

49ers heading for New Orleans

SANTA CLARA, California, Jan 21, (AP): The San Francisco 49ers have conducted a final, 90-minute workout at their training facility here and planned to head for New Orleans to prepare for the Super Bowl on Jan 28.

"We've got the foundation of our game plan in," coach George Seifert said yesterday. "We've covered mostly all areas except for short yardage."

Free safety Ronnie Lott (thigh bruise), Rookie running back Keith Henderson (pinched neck nerve) and rookie tight end Wesley Walls (flu) did not practise yesterday. Only Henderson is questionable for the game against Denver, with special teams captain and backup fullback Harry Sydney in line to replace him.

Seifert's predecessor, Bill Walsh, was a guest at practice for the first time in several weeks. Walsh chatted with the coaches and then joked to reporters that he had "decided to take over" as he headed into the closed locker room.

The players were in an upbeat mood after the practice without pads. "I'm like a big kid — I'm excited about it," said linebacker Keena Turner, one of five 49ers to play on all three of San Francisco's Super Bowl championship teams. "I don't think you can ever get enough of them."

Chet Brooks, who took over Fuller's strong safety job when Fuller suffered a serious nerve injury on Oct 22, is one of the few San Francisco starters who has no Super Bowl experience. Brooks, a second-year player, finished his rookie season on injured reserve

with a left knee injury.

"I haven't played in the Super Bowl, so I'm trying to make sure guys stay focused," he said. "I want to play in this and I want to win it."

Cornerback Tim McKyer, who has asked to be traded, might not get another chance to play in the super bowl for the 49ers. He said again that he just wants to be judged on how he performs on the field, not on any controversial remarks he might make.

Asked how he would defend against 49ers' wide receiver Jerry Rice, the always outspoken McKyer said: "I'd throw that blanket on him, man. ... God has blessed me with the skills and the tools to actually go out there and back it (talk) up."

"When I leave out of the locker room, I've got the big 'S' on my chest. That's my mentality, that's the way I approach the game, whether I make a great play or whether I get ripped — it doesn't matter."

● Flash back three years...

Jim Burt has just rammed his blocky body into Joe Montana, Montana, just eight weeks off delicate back surgery, is lying on the turf at Giants Stadium.

Lawrence Taylor is waltzing into the end zone with the wobbly duck that hurt forced from Montana's arm and the New York Giants are on the way to a 49-3 playoff rout. It seemed to signal both the end of Joe Montana and the Greatness of the San Francisco 49ers.

Flash back two years.... Joe Montana has been chased all over

Candlestick Park by the Minnesota Vikings and finally replaced by Steve Young as the wild-card Vikings beat the heavily favoured 13-2 49ers to proceed to the NFC title game. After the heavily favoured 13-2 49ers to proceed to the NFC title game. After the game, a Bay area columnist writes: "I expect to see Steve Young at quarterback next fall."

Flash to the present.... Coming off a third Super Bowl victory won by a masterfully engineered 89-yard drive capped by his 10-yard pass to John Taylor, Montana has his greatest year, perhaps the greatest year of any quarterback ever.

Despite a litany of injuries that permeates his second page in the press guide — "Hurt elbow in fourth quarter," "injured ribs," "reinjured ribs," "injured left knee" — he has the best season of a career that would have put him in the hall of fame in any case.

He becomes just the second quarterback ever to complete more than 70 per cent of his passes; his rating of 112.4 is the highest ever since the NFL adopted its devilish system two decades ago; he adds his first Most Valuable Player award to two Super Bowl MVPs and he's named Player of the '80s.

He could have retired after that third Super Bowl a year ago.

"After each Super Bowl, I've asked him when he wants to get on with the rest of his life," says his wife Jennifer, co-host on a San Francisco talk show who Montana routinely credits for his success along with his coaches, his offensive line, his receivers, his running backs and the San Francisco defense. "He always said 'maybe when I'm older.'"



Campbell Conference's Al Infrate in action during a fast skate competition during a break in the NHL games. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nicholls traded to Rangers

PITTSBURGH, Jan 21, (Reuters): Centre Bernie Nicholls of the Los Angeles Kings was traded to the New York Rangers for forwards Tony Granato and Tomas Sandstrom as a long-rumoured deal was finally made official yesterday.

Nicholls, who led the National Hockey League with 70 goals last season, was disappointed at being dealt. "I thought I'd be an L.A. King all my life," said Nicholls, 28. "I've been there nine years. I've got a house there, I've got a lot of roots there."

Sandstrom, 25, is a talented Swede known for both his offensive prowess and his stick work.

Granato, a runner-up to teammate Brian Leach for the Calder Trophy as the League's best rookie last season, was happy to be heading to Los Angeles.

"If I had to go anywhere, it's the best place to go," said Granato, 25. The trade ended days of speculation concerning Nicholls and the slumping Kings.

"New York is getting the better of the deal," Nicholls said. "How (the Kings) can make that deal is beyond me, but they feel it is going to work. If it does, they'll look good."

Both teams seemed ready for a shake up. The Kings are fourth in the Smythe Division with 45 points and have only two wins and a tie in their last 10 games. The Rangers are third in the Patrick Division, with 44 points.

Nicholls had 27 goals and 48 assists for Los Angeles. Sandstrom's numbers are 19-19 and Granato's 7-18.

It was an unforeseen finish to the third leg of the 1989/90 Whitbread Round the World Race for the crew of the Rothmans yacht recently. With the 2 leading New Zealand ketches, Steinlager 2 and Fisher & Paykel, skipper of Rothmans Lawrie Smith was still driving the yacht in an all out effort to be first into Auckland as the top 4 yachts rounded the northern tip of New Zealand at about 6 pm.

With only a few miles separating the race leaders on the final run to the finish line disaster struck for Rothmans when a local squall hit the fleet. Intent on keeping ahead of Merit, the crew did not notice the approaching storm which only minutes before it wrecked havoc with Fisher & Paykel's sails. The result was a blown out spinnaker, a broken headboard car at the top of the mast and precious minutes lost while a temporary trysail was set before the damage could be repaired. Rothmans was forced to watch the chance of a top 3 placing slip away from her as Merit recovered and got away.

After 3,400 miles of racing this was another close finish between the top 4 yachts with Steinlager crossing the line at 12.33 pm local time (04/23/33/00 GMT), Fisher & Paykel 6 minutes later, Merit at 1.44 pm local time (05/00/54/37 GMT). The thousands of spectators lining the shore were disappointed not to witness the spectacular display of matchrac-



The Rothmans yacht

ing that had taken place between Rothmans and Merit during the finish at Fremantle, Western Australia.

Despite an average performance from Rothmans earlier in the leg, with Charles Jourdan holding the lead briefly before being replaced by the race pacemaker Steinlager 2, Roth-

ches, almost becalmed, could only creep along at 3-4 knots.

On New Year's Day the Rothmans crew had a double celebration having closed the gap on the rival Kiwi ketches, the Argos satellite plot showing her equal with Steinlager 2. Capturing the wind once more, the ketches regained the lead and passed Cape Reinga yesterday morning ahead of the fleet on their way to a national welcome in their home port of Auckland.

Rothmans will spend the next 10 days out of water. Although she sustained very little damage on this leg, there are a few minor repairs to be made to the deck gear, mast and boom before going back into the water for a fortnight of promotional sailing and sail testing. The shore crew, as in every port, have the yacht facilities set up well in advance to ensure that the yacht is prepared for the next Southern Ocean leg back to Punta del Este in Uruguay. The 4th leg starts on February 4, 1990.

Elapsed Times — 3rd leg Fremantle to Auckland — GMT

	D	H	M	S
Steinlager 2	12	17	33	00
Fisher & Paykel	12	17	39	04
Merit	12	18	44	17
Rothmans	12	18	54	37
Total Elapsed Times — 1st,				
2nd & 3rd legs				
Steinlager 2	65	19	54	11
Merit	66	10	03	33
Fisher & Paykel	67	05	59	50
Rothmans	67	09	31	05

Lawrie's tactical decision to break away from the race leaders and head inshore along the western coast of New Zealand paid off giving Rothmans favourable wind conditions, while the ket-

Marshall helps Barbados take charge

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 21, (Reuters). Malcolm Marshall hammered a rapid half-century and captured two wickets to help Barbados take control of their Red Stripe Cup cricket match against Guyana yesterday.

The West Indies fast bowler started the second day of the four-day match by hitting 59 and sharing a sixth wicket stand of 103 with Theodor Payne, who scored a fine

101 not out, his sixth first-class century. Barbados extended their overnight 301 for five to 452 before declaring an hour after lunch.

Marshall then struck two blows with the new ball, removing opener Suresh Dhaniram without scoring in the fourth over of the innings and having Andrew Jackman lbw with the total 30.

Clayton Lambert made 51 and Carl

Hooper, seeking a Test recall, scored an unbeaten 55 to lift Guyana to 145 for four at the close.

Cup leaders the Leeward Islands took a firm grip against Trinidad and Tobago on the second day in Port of Spain.

An unbeaten 77 by Livingstone Harris hoisted the Leewards from their overnight 58 for six to 145 all out — 57 ahead on first innings — and Trinidad suffered their

second collapse of the match and were 82 for six at the close.

Scores

In Bridgetown: Barbados 452 for eight declared (Gordon Greenidge 128, Theodor Payne 101 not out, Desmond Haynes 59, Malcolm Marshall 59), Guyana 145 for four (Carl Hooper 55 not out, Clayton Lambert 51).

Hughes scuttles Pakistan

Australia take control of 2nd Test

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 21, (Reuters). Fast bowler Merv Hughes produced a devastating burst of four for 11 in 27 deliveries to give Australia the upper hand in the second cricket test against Pakistan today.

Hughes reduced Pakistan, 84 behind on first innings, to 22 for

one before captain Imran Khan and Javed Miandad, batting with a runner because of a back injury, checked the collapse in an unbroken stand of 51.

Pakistan were 73 for four at the close of the third day with Imran, unbeaten on 43, and Miandad, 16 not out, holding the key to their prospects of survival. They trail 1-0 in the three-Test series after

losing the first match in Melbourne by 92 runs.

Imran's team had earlier fought back by taking Australia's last five wickets for 13 as they slumped from 328 for five to 341 all out in reply to Pakistan's 257.

However, the touring side's delight at polishing off the Aus-

tralian first innings swiftly was short-lived as their top order batting was wrecked by Hughes' new-ball spell.

Hughes had Shoaib Mohammad caught behind without scoring in his first over, and then induced wicketkeeper Salim Yousuf to snick an outswinger to Mark Taylor in the slips after scoring just one.

After having Ejaz Ahmed caught in the gully by Peter Taylor for four, making the score seven for three, Hughes claimed his fourth wicket when Rameez Raja was caught by Steve Waugh at second slip for two. The Victoria pace bowler ended the day with four for 24 from 14 overs.

When Australia resumed in the morning at 259 for five, Dean Jones and Peter Taylor batted through the first session to complete a century partnership during which Jones reached his eighth Test hundred.

Their sixth wicket stand produced 112 altogether and lifted the total to 328 before Taylor was run out for 33 shortly after lunch.

Jones was finally out for 116, caught at point when he chased a wide delivery from Imran, having batted 331 minutes and hitting seven fours. He had managed only 54 runs in eight previous innings against Pakistan.

Opener Geoff Marsh, who broke his thumb on Friday while taking a catch and retired hurt

earlier in the innings, returned to the crease and added seven to his score before being caught behind off paceman Wasim Akram for 13.

Akram, Man-of-the-Match in the first Test for his 11-wicket haul, cleaned up the tail to finish with five for 100.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 257 (Javed Miandad 52, Wasim Akram 52 C. Rackemann four for forty)
AUSTRALIA first innings 13
G Marsh c Yousuf b Wasim 28
D Boon lbw b Wasim 28
M Taylor lbw b Imran 77
A Border b Wasim 13
D Jones c Waugh b Imran 116
S Waugh lbw b Wasim 17
T Healy c sub b Waugh 12
P Taylor run out 33
M Hughes not out 6
C Campbell lbw b Wasim 0
C Rackemann b Wasim 0
Extras (lb-12 nb-13) 25
Total 341
Fall: 1-22 (2-113-154-188-216-328-328-341)
Bowling: Wasim 43-10-100-5 (nb-7), Waugh 26-4-66-2 (nb-3), Mushaq 23-4-69-0, Imran 27-6-61-2 (nb-3), Tauseef 14-1-33-0.

PAKISTAN second innings
Shoaib Mohammad c Healy b Hughes 0
Rameez Raja c Waugh b Hughes 2
Salim Yousuf c M. Taylor b Hughes 4
Ejaz Ahmed c P. Taylor b Hughes 4
Imran Khan not out 43
Javed Miandad not out 16
Extras (lb-1 nb-6-1) 7
Total (four wickets) 73
Fall of wickets: 1-0-2-2-3-7-4-22
Bowling (to date): Hughes 14-6-24-4 (w-1), Campbell 11-2-26-0, Rackemann 10-7-7-0, Taylor 8-4-10-0.



Nebiolo talks with officials prior to the news conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nebiolo calls for Johnson's return

TOKYO, Jan 21, (Reuters). Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), called today for a comeback to competition by Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

Johnson was stripped at this weekend's IAAF council meeting of his world records and the 1987 world championships 100 metres gold medal.

Nebiolo told reporters "we wish Johnson to be back because we have always followed his activities with great attention."

He said that whether Johnson can run again will depend on the Canadian Amateur Athletic Federation after Johnson's two-year suspension imposed by the IAAF for using banned anabolic steroids ends this September.

"If the Canadians will agree to give him (Johnson) permission, we would be very happy to see Johnson compete tomorrow," said Nebiolo, who attended a two-day meeting of the IAAF council in Tokyo.

The 28-year-old sprinter, who emigrated with his family from Jamaica to Canada in 1976, was stripped of his gold medal in the Seoul Olympic 100 metres after testing positive for the banned drug stanozolol.

During the Tokyo meeting, the 23-member council decided to wipe out Johnson's three world records, in the 100 metres and the indoor's 50 and 60 metres, as well as the women's indoor 50 metres mark held by his compatriot Angela Issajenko.

Both Johnson and Issajenko have admitted taking banned drugs since 1981 and 1979 respectively.

Last September the IAAF voted to take records away from holders who testify under oath that they used drugs when the records were established and erase records even if the athletes passed dope tests at the meetings.

It also decided to amend the result of the 100 metres in the 1987 World Championships in Rome, listing American Carl Lewis as the winner in 9.93 seconds, Ray Stewart of Jamaica second in 10.08 and Linford Christie of Britain third in 10.14.

Johnson set the deleted world mark of 9.83 seconds at the World Championships and passed a drug test there.

In a news conference, the IAAF chief expressed concern over the recent drastic political changes in East Europe, saying his organisation was willing to extend aid to the countries in the region.

Nebiolo said he was planning to hold a symposium with sports leaders and athletes of the East European countries somewhere in the region as soon as possible to understand the new situation and to see what his organisation can do for them.

Schoolchildren cry foul

ABU DHABI, Jan 21, (Reuters). Arab schoolchildren are crying foul over their end-of-year examinations because they clash with the televised finals of the soccer World Cup in Italy.

The United Arab Emirates has qualified for the June finals for the first time and the teenagers were anxious to see how their local heroes performed.

"Can they (the examinations) be conducted later so we will have

a chance to watch the finals," a student asked UAE acting education minister Ahmed Al-Tajer at a meeting called to lobby support for their cause.

But Tajer kicked their hopes firmly into touch.

"There are no plans to postpone the examinations for the world soccer finals, such events should not divert your attention from education," he said.

UEFA fine Spanish federation \$990,000

BERNE, Jan 21, (Reuters). The European Football Federation (UEFA) has fined the Spanish Football Federation a record 1.5 million Swiss francs (\$990,000) for contravening the rules on television transmissions.

A UEFA statement yesterday said the punishment followed a complaint from the French Football Federation that last October a league match between Real Madrid and Barcelona was re-transmitted live and without authorisation to French viewers.

The French also protested that the practice was continuing with twice-weekly broadcasts of the two clubs' Spanish League games.

UEFA said a similar complaint had been received earlier from the Dutch Football Association and that the Spanish had been told to stop the transmission as they infringed the regulations.

The Spanish federation showed UEFA a copy of a contract it held with a private television station dated July 20, 1989.

The fine must be paid within 30 days. UEFA warned of serious consequences if the unauthorised broadcasts continued.

An appeal can be lodged by midnight on Tuesday.

The previous highest fine of 250,000 francs (then \$147,000) for contravening the television regulations was imposed on Scottish side Hearts by UEFA's appeals board last June.

The board, rejecting an appeal, had more than doubled the original fine of 100,000 francs (\$62,000) after the club allowed last season's home leg of their UEFA Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich to be televised in West Germany.

Earlier UEFA banned French club Racing Strasbourg from European club competitions for three seasons for ignoring demands to pay a transfer fee.

UEFA said Racing failure to pay three million Swiss francs (\$1.98 million) plus interest to Cologne of West Germany for the transfer of Thomas Alofs in July 1989 was a "gross disregard" of European rules.

UEFA also ordered Porto of Portugal and Austria's Rapid Vienna to play their next home games in European competitions 200 kms from their home grounds as punishment for their fans' misbehaviour.

Kuwait Little League

Red Sox outlast White Sox

THE two senior Kuwait Little League teams started off their second half of the season with cool weather but some great playing. The Red Sox, as visiting team were up first. San Jose's single brought in 2 runs. The boys were ready walking to first but Aziz Al Adaj and George Janini managed singles. There are lots of stolen bases and the Red Sox scored 12 runs.

The White Sox were slow to start scoring. Robbie Mason and Mohammed Khan were the only runners to score the first two innings. Mohammed had a home run on Red Sox fielding errors. Robbie Mason hit a beautiful ball in the third inning for an in the home run. But the boys couldn't catch up. At the end of five innings, Red Sox 12, White Sox 9.

The Mariners and Mets met twice. Their regularly scheduled game was a close one. Ziad Sakhib hit a home run for the Mariners earning 2 RBI's.

Nobuharu Mano and Hiroyuki Suzuki hit nice doubles and Kazumasa Takenchi and Rami Khouri hit triples for the Mariners.

The Mets did a lot of walking against the Mariners pitcher. Ali Al Qasbi hit a single to bring in 1 run. The Mets lost the game 7 runs to the Mariners 10.

In the make-up game the Mariners also won 11-4.

The Blue Jays and Astros had a great game. Gibran Hamdan, Bibi Al Ebrahim, and Majed Jamshidi hit home runs. Majed also hit a triple earning 4 RBIs for the day. Rida Bahbani also hit a triple for the Astros.

The Blue Jays didn't have the power hitters. They either walked to first or struck out. The Astros picking was too much for them.

After 4 innings of play Astros 15 Blue Jays 1.

If you want to see hitting watch a T-ball game, especially watch the Braves

and Cubs battle it out. The Braves big hitters were Osama Abduljein with a triple, Khalid Al Fulaifi, Ibrahim Dagher, Ahmed Afani, Adil Ebrahim, Rami and Skyley Moss, all hit doubles.

The Braves out hit the Cubs winning the game 28-17.

The Royals and Tigers went at it for game 3. The Royals Salmaan Al Zubair, Farah Hawan, and Christopher Khouri all hit singles and were able to score in the first inning.

The Tigers never stopped hitting and scoring. Along with the 5 home run hitters there were triples by Ali, Baser Zalattino, Ahmed Al Qasbi, Noha Abdelaziz and Joshua Diemer, Sarah Todd, Ahmed Galal, Rami Hamman, Karim Fathalla and Ahmed Al Qasbi.

The Tigers beat the Royals 34-3.

Results

T-ball
28 Cubs 17

3 Tigers 34
4 Athletics 4
1 Mariners 15
1 Astros 15
7 Mariners 10
Mets 4 Mariners 11 make-up game

Cardinals 17 Orioles 8
Dodgers 7 Pirates 8
Giants 17 Rangers 10
Senators 12 White Sox 9

Home run hitters
Robbie Mason, White Sox; Joey Pearce, Tigers; Joshua Diemer, Tigers; Noha Abdelaziz, Tigers; Rashad Kawanji, Tigers; Rami Hamman, Tigers; Mazin Shadi, Pirates; Ziad Sakhib, Mariners; Gibran Hamdan (2), Astros; Bibi Al Ebrahim, Astros; Majed Jamshidi, Astros; Jihad Sakhib, Orioles; Hisham Navarro, Cardinals.

Villa face battle of nerves as the race heats up

LONDON, Jan 21, (Reuters). Aston Villa fans, all too used to the strains of relegation soccer battles in recent years, are having to face a new unfamiliar source of stress — success.

Their club's 2-1 English League defeat of a strong Southampton yesterday kept them level at the top of the division on 46 points, behind Liverpool on goal difference, with a game in hand.

Stretched nerves were evident as Villa overcame a 54th minute equaliser to take the day thanks to a 79th minute goal slotted calmly home by fullback Kevin Gage.

"That's what we're probably going to experience from now to the end of the season — very tight games where we're going to have to keep our nerve," said manager Graham Taylor.

"That's something our supporters haven't had to go through for perhaps 10 years, and it's a nice experience," he said.

With Liverpool steaming 2-0 ahead at Crystal Palace and champions Arsenal pressing hard in third place on 42 points with a 1-0 defeat of Tottenham, Villa needed to win.

The huge cheer at the end of the game was evidence of the fans' relief at overcoming what may well prove to have been one of Villa's highest hurdles on the way to the title.

Taylor's role in the rejuvenation of a Villa that battled to stave off relegation last season, has been remarkable.

When he took over three seasons ago, he inherited a big city club fallen on hard times but with desperate ambitions to return to the days of 1981 when they last won the League title. From being rank outsiders at the start of the season, they have



Villa players celebrate their victory.

edged aside Arsenal to become the London bookmakers' second favourites after Liverpool for the title.

With Southampton manager Chris Nicholl, a former Villa Park stalwart, Taylor was only a few months ago tipped as the manager most likely to be sacked at the start of the season.

Since then, both have established a record to be envied. Villa have lost only once in their last 15 games while Southampton have been beaten only twice in their last 13.

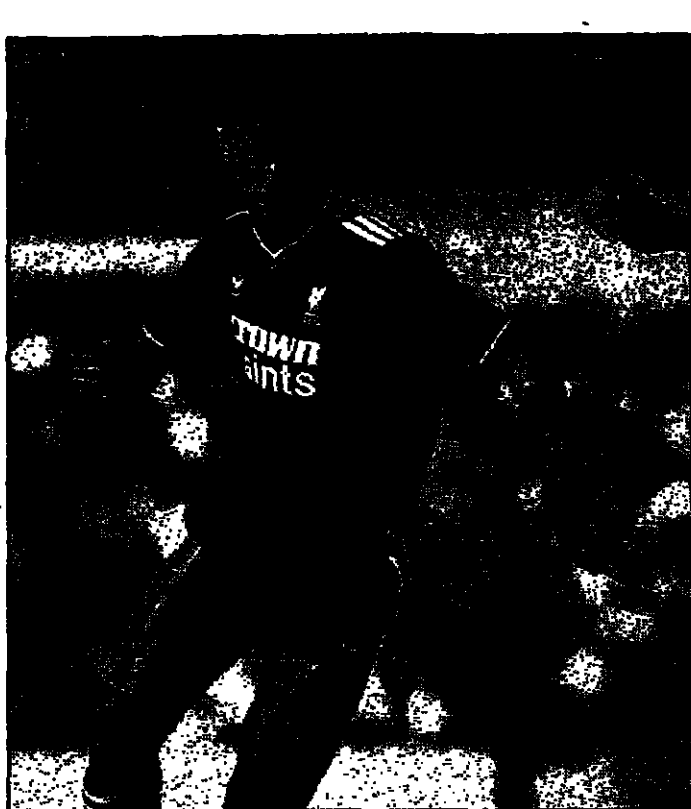
Only Liverpool have more enviable goal scoring credentials and Welsh international Ian

Rush — now well and truly back into the most prolific form has been a major force.

His eighth minute goal against Crystal Palace, beaten 9-0 at Anfield last September, brought his tally to 18 this season and made him top scorer alongside Villa's David Platt.

Palace's chance of staging a comeback evaporated after manager Steve Coppell, made the error of substituting two of his players without realising midfielder Eddie McGoldrick was lying on the ground in need of a stretcher.

Even when Eddie was down I still thought he was going to get



Rush: scoring in nearly every game.

up," Coppell said later. But he didn't and at that time I couldn't change my mind about the substitution. It's a lesson for me and is something I won't do again."

Arsenal manager George Graham was a happy man after watching his team beat arch-rivals Tottenham. "It was one of the best games we have played all season," he said later.

Results

English and Scottish League soccer tables after Saturday's matches (abolished play-off, wins, draws, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

English Division One
Liverpool 24 13 7 4 48 25 46
Aston Villa 23 14 4 5 40 21 46
Arsenal 23 13 3 7 38 24 42

Newcastle	26 11	8	7	47	36	41
Ipswich	26 11	8	7	38	36	41
Wolves	27 10	9	8	43	35	39
Port Vale	27 10	9	8	39	34	37
Oxford	27 10	7	10	38	37	37
Blackburn	26 12	6	47	43	36	
Bournemouth	27 10	6	11	43	45	36
West Ham	27 9	9	10	38	35	
Watford	27 9	7	11	35	34	
Leicester	27 9	7	11	38	45	34
Plymouth	26 8	7	11	38	40	31
Reading	27 9	10	7	37	31	
W. Bromwich	27 7	9	11	44	40	30
M. Brough	27 8	6	13	32	40	30
Brighton	27 8	5	14	35	40	29
Sheff. Wed.	27 8	5	14	35	40	29
Bradford	27 6	10	11	30	40	28
Barnsley	27 7	7	13	29	40	28
Stoke	26 4	10	12	23	42	22

Bristol City	24 14	5	5	33	20	47
Notts County	25 13	7	5	37	25	46
Sheff. Wed.	24 11	9	4	38	26	42
Bolton	24 11	8	4	38	26	42
Rotherham	25 11	7	7	48	31	40
Bury	25 11	6	8	41	32	39
Hull. Field	25 10	6	8	43	32	39
Tranmere	24 11	5	8	31	36	38
Birmingham	24 10	5	9	29	28	35
Shrewsbury	24 8	7	9	35	34	31
Northampton	23 8	7	9	30	31	31
Fulham	25 9	9	20	30	30	
Reading	25 9	3	13	37	41	30
Wigan	24 7	9	8	26	30	
Swansea	23 8	6	9	21	32	
Preston	25 8	5	12	36	44	29
Reading	25 6	10	7	26	38	
Leyton O.	25 8	4	13	31	39	
Crewe	24 6	9	9	27	30	
Chester	25 6	9	10	24	35	27
Cardiff	25 6	8	9	29	36	26
Manfield	24 4	13	24	35	25	
Blackpool	24 5	8	11	21	30	
Walsall	23 5	6	12	19	34	21

Carlisle	25 14	6	5	39	26	48
Exeter	24 15	2	7	44	27	47
Stockport	26 13	5	8	41	32	44
Southend	25 12	5	8	33	27	41
Maidstone	24 12	3	9	37	30	39
Chesham	24 11	6	7	33	29	39
Gillingham	24 11	5	8	31	31	31
York	24 10	8	6	29	24	38
Barnley	24 10	7	7	25	22	37
Lincoln	25 10	7	8	25	27	37
Cambridge	24 10	5	9	40	38	35
Peterborough	25 7	13	9	32	27	34
Scunthorpe	25 9	7	9	39	36	34
Aldershot	24 9	7	8	33	31	34
Grimsby	25 8	9	8	33	30	33
Rochdale	24 10	3	11	26	25	33
Doncaster	25 9	3	11	31	29	32
Torquay	24 8	10	29	30	30	
Scarborough	26 9	2	15	32	43	29
Hereford	24 7	10	30	35	28	
Halifax	25 6	7	12	31	25	25
Colchester	25 4	8	13	24	42	30

Lendl brushes aside Youl

Umpire disqualifies McEnroe



Porwik in action in today's match. (Reuter wirephoto)

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 21. (Reuter): World number one Ivan Lendl looked poised to make the most of John McEnroe's disqualification for swearing at officials today as he continued his bid to retain the Australian Open title.

Lendl, the tournament's top seed, was safely back in the locker room before the McEnroe fireworks in a match with Swede Mikael Pernfors started, having produced his best form so far to beat Australian wildcard Simon Youl 6-1 6-3 6-1.

He now meets 19-year-old Soviet player Andrei Cherkasov in the quarterfinals, with the potential threat of fourth seed McEnroe removed if he advances to the last four.

Cherkasov produced one of the day's early upsets by upsetting ninth seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador 2-6 6-3 7-6 7-6.

He was joined in the men's quarter-finals by Frenchman Yannick Noah, a 6-3 6-4 3-6 6-2 winner over American Pete Sampras, and Pernfors, the beneficiary of McEnroe's disqualification.

Sixteenth seed Barbara Paulus of Austria also disappeared, beaten 7-5 6-2 by another American, Patty Fendick.

The fourth-seeded McEnroe's problems began in the third set of a tight match in which he failed to reproduce the form that had captivated the crowds in his three earlier matches.

After a line call went against him, he fixed the female line judge with a fierce glare and received a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Then, leading two sets to one but trailing 3-2 in the fourth, he smashed his racket into the rubberised rebound ace surface causing it to bounce above his head.

The tournament's fourth seed was penalised a point for racket abuse and, unable to contain himself, launched a volley of verbal abuse at the officials around the umpire's chair which promptly caused his downfall.

He was later fined \$500 for racket abuse, \$5,000 for verbal abuse and an extra \$1,000 for being defaulted. He will be allowed to keep his prize money for reaching the fourth round which totalled \$26,000.

"I don't feel good about it but I can't say I'm totally surprised," said McEnroe, unaware until later that the astonished crowd had slow hand-clapped and chanted his name for 10 minutes after he left centre court.

Asked if he would have behaved differently had he been

fully aware of the rules governing defaulting, McEnroe replied: "I probably wouldn't have said what I said. If you're one step from defaulting you don't want to end the match like that."

Graf stretched her unbeaten streak at the Australian Open to 18 matches since 1988 but warned her remaining rivals in the women's singles that she had considerable room for improvement.

The success of Gavaldon, a precocious teenage Tina Turner lookalike, took even the young Californian by surprise.

Her 6-3 1-6 6-2 win over Fernandez qualified her for a quarterfinal clash with West German Claudia Porwik, a 7-6 3-6 6-4 winner over South Africa's Dinku van Rensburg.

In the absence of the injured Gabriela Sabatini, third seed Zina Garrison kept up her bid to reach her first Grand Slam final when her opponent Catherine Tanvier had to retire through injury in the second set of their match.

A hobbling Gabriela Sabatini today blamed bad luck rather than the court surface for her painful exit from the Australian Open yesterday.

The Argentinian world number three, who twisted her ankle during her third round match with Claudia Porwik on centre court, said the injury felt better though she did not expect to resume playing for at least two weeks.



John McEnroe throws his racket (left) and later shows his emotion after being defaulted. (Reuter wirephoto)



Sri Lanka collapse against spinners

SYDNEY, Jan 21. (Reuter): Spinners Greg Matthews and Mark O'Neill caused a collapse in which Sri Lanka's last eight wickets tumbled for 63, giving New South Wales victory by 81 runs in a one-day cricket match at Coll's Harbour near here today.

Sri Lanka, facing a New South Wales score of 262 for four from their 50 overs, were promisingly placed at 118 for two in 22 overs with Asanka Gurusinha and Aravinda de Silva sharing a stand of 61.

But when former test off-spinner Matthews and Gurusinha caught in the gully by Richard Stobo off the final delivery of his first over for 39, the touring team crumbled.

Their last eight wickets went in 75 minutes and they were dismissed for 181 in 41.4 overs.

Matthews ended with four for 22, leg spinner O'Neill took three for 36, and the other wicket to fall during the collapse was the running out of Aravinda de Silva for 43.

New South Wales had punished a Sri Lanka attack missing pace bowlers Graeme Labrooy and Ramesh Ratnayake, who were both injured.

Opener Steve Small hit 101, winning the Man of the Match award, and put on 123 in 87 minutes for the second wicket with Trevor Baylis, who struck an unbeaten 97 in 93 deliveries. His innings contained five sixes and two fours.

Scoreboard

NEW SOUTH WALES	
S. Small c Samarasekera b Gurusinha	101
P. Emery c Jayasuriya b Asoka de Silva	31
T. Baylis not out	97
M. O'Neill c Samarasekera b Gurusinha	11
M. Waugh b Gurusinha	6
B. McNamara not out	1
Extras (b-1 lb-8 w-2 nb-2)	13
Total four wickets - 50 overs	262
Fail of wickets: 1-74 2-197 3-242 4-259	
Bowling: Ratnayake 8-0-40-0 (1w), Ramnarayan 10-0-35-0 (2nb), Wijesunderarane 6-0-36-0, A. Ratnayake 9-1-42-0, Aravinda de Silva 4-0-24-0, Gurusinha 7-0-38-3, Asoka de Silva 6-0-34-1 (1w).	
SRI LANKA	
R. Mahanama c Lawson b Holdsworth	12
A. Samarasekera b Lawson	44
A. Gurusinha c Stobo b Matthews	39
A. Ratnayake c Emery b Matthews	2
Aravinda de Silva run out	43
H. Tilakaratne c M. Waugh b Matthews	17
R. Ratnayake b O'Neill	2
S. Jayasuriya c M. Waugh b Matthews	8
C. Ramnarayan b O'Neill	1
A. Asoka de Silva not out	3
K. Wijesunderarane c M. Waugh b O'Neill	2
Extras (b-4 b-2 w-3)	9
Total (41.4 overs)	181
Fail of wickets: 1-44 2-57 3-118 4-134 5-151 6-150 7-162 8-166 9-177	
Bowling: Lawson 6-0-32-1 (1w), Holdsworth 7-0-37-1 (1w), M. Waugh 5-0-28-0, Stobo 4-0-21-0 (1w), Matthews 10-0-22-4 (2nb).	
Result: New South Wales won by 81 runs.	

SPORTS BRIEFS

Moseley suspended

CARDIFF, Jan 21. (Reuter): Wales second row forward Kevin Moseley, sent off against France yesterday, will miss the rest of the rugby union season after being suspended until August 31.

Flynn triumphs

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan 21. (Reuter): Ray Flynn of Ireland bettered four minutes in the mile and American Leann Warren turned in a 4:10.41 clocking in the women's 1,500 metres in an indoor athletics meet yesterday.

Jacobsen leads

LAQUINTA, Calif., Jan 21. (Reuter): Peter Jacobsen, seeking his first win on the PGA tour since 1984, shot a six-under-par 66 on the Bermuda Dunes course yesterday to take a two-shot lead after 72 holes of the Bob Hope Classic golf tournament.

Millrose Games

NEW YORK, Jan 21. (AP): Hollis Conway, the 1988 Olympic silver medalist and American indoor and outdoor record-holder in the high jump, has entered the Feb 2 Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden.

Downhill victory

KITZBUHEL, Austria, Jan 21. (AP): Upstart Norwegian downhill racer Atle Skarvald yesterday whipped the sport's recognised stars when he won the first ever World Cup two-leg sprint downhill here.

Skier dies

TOKYO, Jan 21. (AP): Japanese skier Koichi Sato collapsed during a race and died of heart failure yesterday, forcing cancellation of the Fukushima Classic, organisers said today.

Sheffield Shield

SYDNEY, Jan 21. (Reuter): Scores at the close of the third day of four-day Sheffield Shield cricket matches today. In Brisbane: Queensland 449, Western Australia 350 for nine (Tom Moody 59, Chris Matthews 51, Craig McDermott 49 for 97). In Devonport: Tasmania 229 and 222 for seven (Rod Tucker 49, Steve Hooke 47). South Australia 381 (David Hookes 139, Paul Nobes 52, Dave Gilbert seven for 127).

Rafferty ahead

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 21. (Reuter): Britain's Roman Rafferty, the top money winner in Europe last year, shot a bogey-free back nine to earn a two-stroke victory in the Melbourne Classic golf tournament today.

Italian soccer

ROME, Jan 21. (Reuter): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:	
Ascoli	1 Juventus 2
Atalanta	3 Roma 0
Bari	0 Bologna 0
Cesena	4 Lecce 0
Genoa	1 Cremonese 0
Inter	2 Sampdoria 0
Lazio	2 Fiorentina 1
Napoli	2 Verona 1
Udinese	0 AC Milan 2

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

- N/S:
1. Nahil Akel & Narendra Shah
2. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed Tawil
3. Dr Tariq & Sultan Ali
E/W:
1. Dr & Mrs Oaky
2. Merchant & Carsten
3. Mrs Pereira & D'Souza

England, France live up to billing

LONDON, Jan 21. (Reuter): England and France overcame unsteady starts to live up to their billing as favourites on the opening day of the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship, setting up an intriguing clash in Paris in two weeks.

The manner of yesterday's victories and the conclusions that can be drawn leave the Parc des Princes match on February 3 wide open with Champions France out to avenge an 11-0 whitewash at Twickenham last season.

Ireland, beaten 23-0 by England at Twickenham, gave Scotland their first outing in the championship in Dublin on the same day, while Wales

have four weeks — they next face England at Twickenham on February 17 — during which to ponder what might have been after France took advantage of Kevin Moseley's 33rd-minute sending off to win 29-19 at Cardiff Arms Park.

The difference between England and Ireland was most obvious at half-back where Richard Hill made a promising return as scrum half after a three-year absence from international rugby union.

There promises to be a real battle of wits when Hill comes face to face with his counterpart Pierre Berbizier, the wily French captain.



England's David Egerton (left) talks to coach Roger Uttley.

Ireland blooded three new caps, two of them included only because first choice players were deemed unfit. But these two, lock Neil Francis and full-back Ken Murphy, made promising debuts under intense pressure.

It was Paul Russell at fly half whose nerves unsettled the whole Irish team. Their pack won considerable possession, in particular surprising England in the lineouts, but Russell made poor use of it.

England were only 7-0 up with less than 10 minutes to the final whistle but ever since prop Jeff Probyn's 25th-minute try the threat had been in the air that many more points might follow.

They did in exciting movements by the backs that included Rory Underwood's record 19th try for England.

Simon Hodgkinson had a sound game at full-back but was hardly tested by an Irish side preoccupied with defence for most of the match.

The pressure from the French backs is bound to be daunting and Hodgkinson will have to prove his mettle in one of the few positions in the England side with a question mark over them.

The others are in the back row, where the high standards of Dean Richards and Mike Tsegue in particular are hard to follow and Michael Skinner's performance was more one of brawn than brain.

David Egerton at number eight and Peter Winterbottom were better but they will have to improve in Paris.

Probyn needed 19 stitches in an ear injury and many have to miss a vital domestic cup tie for wasps next Saturday to ensure he is fit for Paris.

France made light of the absence of Serge Blanco, with Jean-Baptiste Lafond a confident replacement at full-back scoring their first try. Blanco, ever-present since 1981 with 71 caps, could also miss the match against England.

Moseley's dismissal — earning him a seven-month suspension by the international rugby board — left the Welsh pack with a gaping hole against the heavyweight French forwards they had planned to counter with even more weight.

But Wales, who have not beaten the French since 1982, found enough fire to be ahead until the 35th minute with a Mark Tiley try and accurate kicking by Paul Thorburn before France turned the tide with four second half tries.

French coach Jacques Fouroux said afterwards: "Even though they were down to 14 men, to win in Cardiff is like climbing Everest."

The fast and skilled French backs including Philippe Sella, arguably the world's best centre, came up against an England line whose fine form belies their limited experience as a unit in the Five Nations Championship.

After a strenuous workout last

Kania denies making doping confession

AMSTERDAM, Jan 21. (Reuter): East German former speed skating world champion Karin Kania denied today she had ever taken banned stimulants and said a recent interview in which she seemed to confess to drug abuse had been misinterpreted.

Speaking on Dutch television, Kania said she was referring to proteins and vitamins when she told French-language satellite channel TV-5 she had used preparations to improve her performance.

The report caused a major stir in the Netherlands, where speed skating is immensely popular, and the East German Skating Federation said on Thursday it would investigate the claims.

"I just couldn't believe my ears when they presented it as if I had confessed to using doping," Kania, a 10-times world champion, said. "I meant proteins and vitamins."

"I've never used stimulants ... I've never needed them," she added. "In 16 world championships I've always been tested and I've always tested negative."

Kania, formerly Karin Enke, dominated speed skating throughout the 80s. She retired two years ago after winning two silvers and a bronze at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary to add to the two golds and two silvers she won four years previously in Sarajevo.

Bacher pleads with police for restraint

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 21. (Reuter): South African cricket chief Ali Bacher said yesterday he had appealed to police to use more restraint following the ugly airport scenes which prefaced the arrival of England's rebel team.

Ten people were arrested and several injured at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport on Friday when police used dogs and tear-gas against protesters opposing the tour, which breaks international sporting sanctions against the apartheid republic.

The demonstration took place about three hours before the 16-man squad, led by former England captain Mike Gatting, arrived on a flight delayed because of a bomb hoax in London.

"It has reinforced my viewpoint that people should have the right to hold demonstrations and have freedom of expression as long as it is peaceful," Bacher told reporters.

"I spoke with people high up in the security police and strongly urged them to show as much restraint as possible if it happened



Mike Gatting



Chris Cowdrey



Greg Thomas



David Graveney

again." Bacher refused to name the officials he spoke to or say what their response was.

"It is not up to me to be their spokesman," he said.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said he did not know of Bacher's conversation and was unable to comment.

Bacher, prime organiser of the tour, said he believed political changes in South Africa in the

next few weeks would take the pressure off the tour.

South African President F.W. de Klerk, who has pledged to reform apartheid, is expected to make several important announcements when parliament opens in two weeks' time.

These could include lifting a four-year-old state of emergency and the release of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, jailed since 1962.

"A lot of obstacles may soon be removed. There has been talk of the lifting of the state of emergency and other major steps. I feel a lot of positive things will happen and this will become just a cricket tour," said Bacher.

Mike Gatting and his band of rebel cricketers, having weathered the initial protest their arrival caused, relaxed here today over a traditional South African barbecue.

After a strenuous workout last

ting nearly three hours, the squad feasted on barbecued lamb at Bacher's home.

The only minor problem for the visitors has been upset stomachs for Chris Cowdrey and Greg Thomas which caused each to miss a practice session.

"Some of the bowlers are a bit stiff but that is to be expected after a layoff for several months since the end of the English season," said tour manager David Graveney.

Monroes move ahead

THE dawning of a new decade in the Mouchel Monday Darts League could also spell the end of 22 1/2 years of Baggs dominance. After the first round of matches into the New Year, League leadership has been relinquished to new super-team Monroes.

Visiting 3rd placed Campanologists, who had their full squad altogether for the first time, Baggs looked a little jaded after the one month lay off and performed well below their normal standard. John Watson scored 2 140's in 4 high scores as he led the way in ringing up a first defeat of the season for the reigning champions. A better performance from Nightflights, however, as they took a point from Appellers despite having been 2-0 ahead.

With an easy away fixture at bottom team Stars of the Yeast, Monroes victory was no surprise, and Marilyn's similar success means that they head both mens and ladies Leagues. Erik Christensen started brightly with a 140 and a 108 finish, as his 3 high scores keep him ahead in the most number of high scores trophy. Joan Finnegan's 116 earned her a trophy and Stella Gardner moved to the head of the ladies high scoring league with her 3rd, a 2mm treble shot and she now leads fellow Starlet Barbara Marks by virtue of having made a higher score.

Exiles did themselves no good at all in going down badly to Cottar Hoose. Brendan Richardson, Peter Maciejewski and Martyn Rix all hit 140s as Peter Granowski chipped in with 3 high scores as the Hoose Boys won all 4 singles matches.

As the Tyne Tees/Brahms & Liszt game was postponed Cottar Hoose now move up to 4th, but a good run of results from one of these mid-table teams is required if the top three sides are going to be seriously challenged.

Ragamuffins only remain on the fringe despite beating TCF comfortably, aided by 3 100's from Dave Bosworth. Although his steady aim deserted him in the latter stages, Bosworth lit up an otherwise dull encounter, as his burning desire to win inspired his teammates to success.

The following is a full results summary of Mouchel Monday Darts League for last week, with ladies scores in brackets:

Campanologists	(2) 5	Baggs	(2) 1
Exiles	(1) 5	Cottar Hoose	(2) 5
TCF	(4) 1	Ragamuffins	(0) 5
Stars of the Yeast	(1) 1	Monroes	(3) 5

ARAB TIMES

Published by:
Dar Al-SeyassahEditor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al JarallahEditorial Office:
Airport Road, Shuwaikh.
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.Telex:
22332 KTTelephones:
4813566 (main lines)Advertising:
4816327